

The Church and the Beast

REVELATION 12

(Trumpet #7)

Revelation 12, 13 and 14 describe the developments which the seventh Trumpet announces, from the initial blowing to the final blast. The blowing of the six preceding Trumpets unleashed remedial forces of judgment. Six is man's number, thus each of the six Trumpets deal with the worldly or carnal events relating to the end-time judgments of God on rebellious man. But the blowing of the seventh Trumpet brings the release of great spiritual power. Seven is the number of the Church and, by the grace of the reigning Christ, the true Church will be brought to imbuelement of power such as has never been seen.

We are to hear and prepare, for the time to the blowing of the seventh Trumpet is now short and much yet needs to be done within the spiritual Body the Lord is building. The seventh Trumpet initially calls 144,000 of the choicest saints to come up so they can be received in their glorified bodies (*Rev. 14:1*). Those called shall meet the Lord in the upper atmosphere (not in the mountain-top clouds of *I Thess. 4:17*), to be taken to His throne room in the New Jerusalem. He is now there, where He has already come to begin His end-time presence (*parousia*), in a city that has been seen by human eyes early in the 1970 decade (*Rev. 12:5*).

But these most choice saints are not taken off somewhere to do nothing; they are then commissioned and assigned specific duties to be performed during the Great Tribulation period. When this Bride company has risen to the high atmosphere levels of the New Jerusalem above, without delay Satan and his followers are forced down, closer in to the immediate earth environment (*Rev. 12:7-9*). And when that 144,000 company is taken up, the more dedicated of the true Church remaining on earth go into prayer day and night, during 50 days, for a mighty spiritual revolution (*Matt. 25:10-12, Lk. 12:37-38*). Those to become leaders in the Glorious Church (Zion on earth) will be the ones found utterly dedicated to glorifying Christ our Savior. Then Pentecost is to be completely fulfilled and the Holy Spirit poured out on all flesh prepared and ready to receive such a great outpouring (*Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17-20*). Satan, by then physically on earth, intensifies his opposition and the Great Tribulation will be well underway, having begun concurrently with the raising of the Firstfruits.

Approximately six days after the 144,000 Firstfruits company is glorified, its members begin to reappear to saints yet on earth to give encouragement and instruction (*Isa. 30:19-21, Mal. 3:17-18*). Having glorified bodies, they can appear and disappear at will. And they continue to minister to the saints on earth during the following 40 days, possibly off and on during the 42 months of Tribulation (3 ½ years), just as Jesus appeared during 40 days after His glorification. This ministry of the glorified ones, to-

gether with the ministry of the **Revelation 11** two witnesses in earthly immortal physical bodies will constitute the manifestation of the Sons of God for which all creation waits (**Rom. 8:19**). The Manifested Sons in immortal glorified bodies will together be a tower of strength and help to the great army of saints which will go forth to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom in all nations. God will yet be glorified on earth in and through a people who will preach with a power and authority confirmed by mighty signs and wonders (**Mk. 16:17-18**). Then, by the manifestation of His Sons *and* by a mighty outpouring of His Spirit upon the Church, God will get Himself glory and will bring a bounteous Harvest into His Kingdom.

This is the period of the *Great Tribulation* (**Matt. 24:21**), during which all seven Trumpets are sounding concurrently. At the close of the Great Tribulation, the final blast of the seventh Trumpet will sound and the *dead* in Christ shall be raised (**I Cor. 15:51-52, I Thess. 4:13-17**). Then immediately the living saints who have made themselves ready shall be translated and caught up to be with the Lord in the clouds at the mountain-top level to which He will then have descended. The final blast concludes the 1260 days of Great Tribulation and issues in the 15 days of the seven Bowls of God's Wrath (**Rev. 15:1 and 16:1**). By then the developments of the seventh Trumpet will have brought the clear demonstration of victory by the loyal Body of Christ, and only mop-up remains to be done.

Having received His own, the Lord Jesus will then quickly return with all His glorified saints in power and great glory (**Matt. 24:30, Jude 14, Col. 3:4**). Then will the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdoms of the Lord Jesus Christ. And He and His anointed rulers shall reign to the Age of all ages (**Rev. 11:15**), *until* all is in order to be delivered over to His Father (**I Cor. 15:24-25**).

: I The early verses of *chapter 12* require us to view and keep in mind a dual situation. First there is the woman in heaven, clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and wearing a diadem of twelve stars. Clearly, the place in which this woman is seen is in the heavenlies. But then we read of the Manchild she brings to birth being caught up from the earth to the heavenly plane. Further on, the woman is shown fleeing into the wilderness – typically an earth planet environment. Having been made aware of the pattern in truth through which that being developed on earth must be brought to correspond to the already established original in the heavenlies, we must here also see two women. Both are identified with each other. There is the heavenly woman organism already in being. But there is also the earthly woman organism now in process of being developed toward the same attributes and capabilities of the heavenly woman. This development is the responsibility of the heavenly woman and so she is here closely identified with the earthly woman (known also to us as the Church).

The first major objective is to bring a Manchild company to birth. This requires a sufficiently long gestation period to build such a body. Obviously it is to become a different body from that of the woman Church. Now, we should see that it is the matured heavenly woman which brings the Manchild to birth on earth, out from the body of the earthly Church (apply the principle of heavenly woman – earthly woman identification). But it is at a time when the earthly woman Church is yet too immature and indifferent to know what is being accomplished in her midst. God's planning and the ways in which He carries on His works are different and on a higher level from man's.

Here we see the woman *in travail* to bring forth. But in Isaiah we are told the woman is delivered *before* her pain has come (*Isa. 66:7*). The apparent discrepancy disappears as soon as it is realized that the Prophet Isaiah spoke of Zion as the earthly Church organism, while John was viewing the actual heavenly archetype. The Isaiah passage is indicative of relatively calm and orderly conditions still being experienced by the earth planet "Zion" Church when the Manchild is brought out of her and caught up to God. But the heavenly woman must be linked with the spirit of the true Church of the Firstborn. Her travail and pain to be delivered increase from year to year with the waiting and longing for her being glorified through the development and appearance of the Manchild company. The Manchild company, therefore, is the *new* life which the Church brings forth, and the members of this group are chosen to then shepherd the teachable in all the nations toward and into truth with a rod of iron (inflexible). This ***Revelation 12:5*** passage is almost identical to the ***Revelation 2:26-27*** portion. There it is stated that he who *overcomes* and keeps the Lord's works to the end, to him the Lord Jesus Christ will give power over the nations. And that overcomer will shepherd with a rod of iron, etc. The members of the Manchild group necessarily identify with these overcomers. How sad that the masses of the indifferent Church of today are so willfully ignorant of Scripture, and many so woefully untouched by any effort to overcome. They are unaware that seven times it is stated that the promises to the Churches are only to the overcomer.

The woman in the heavenlies is seen clothed with the sun – God's power and glory. And she is working toward bringing forth on the earth planet a Body of people who will attain to a spiritual brightness and glory of seven times more than before (*Isa. 30:25-29*). Surely such a Body will yet be developed on earth to come into the fullness which God has purposed, clothed with God's spiritual power in its midst.

The Lord has promised to come in our day with power to show the glory of His presence through a dedicated people. He has promised to arise with healing, both of disease and unbelief, in His "wings," literally extensions of Himself (*Mal. 4:2*). Just as the sun shines and gives light and warmth to the earth, so shall the Lord be as the rising of the sun in the midst of His people to radiate His light and His preservation (salvation). He will enable His people to enter new realms in Him and be clothed with His power and glory, even as the glory of the sun. People trusting in Him and working out His plan shall be seen by the world with seven times more glory than anything before. Seven is the number of the Church, and pictures the true Body of Christ coming into the fullness of His purpose. Our Lord is as the rising sun and radiates His power to the faithful within His floodlight coverage (*Ps. 19:4-5*).

The woman in the heavenlies is also shown having placed the moon under her feet. This is the measure of her walk, the soul desires and emotions being supportive rather than leading or driving her spirit. Here, too, the picture must be progressively duplicated on the earth planet. The members of the Manchild group must have been trained to overcome all desire that is in opposition or a hindrance to concentration on carrying out the Father's plan for His family.

And upon her head, the heavenly woman has a diadem of twelve shiners or stars. These speak of a fullness of glory for Israel and its twelve tribes (*Rev. 7:4*). But that is spiritual symbolism and is to be connected with and understood through the operation of His Church on earth. The number 12 is that of spiritual discernment and Spirit power

achieved through sacrifice of selfish methods and goals. So on the earth plane, too, God's sovereignty must come into being. It is to be manifested among at least a portion of His people, through their terminating the cycle of sin and through their conscious and joyful choice of that which is for the ultimate good. The manifesting then will be of that which is for the ultimate good, which is God's will, with not the slightest yielding to self desire. Only in this way can there be any moving toward functioning in the fullness of the New Covenant power and authority, as is shown by the celestial woman.

Obviously, the earthly woman Church is still in the realm of limitation, because she has not yet been caught up to the Throne and invested with the power which comes only to those who are no longer subject to death. She has not yet overcome sufficiently to be in the realm of Manifested Sons. The Manifested Sons or Manchild company to be born out of the woman will have overcome to the extent that death can be abolished for them (*Rom. 1:4, Lk. 20:36*). Whether in the heavenly or earthly spheres, they will be no longer subject to the powers of death, nor to the limitations of its domain, for they will be functioning in a realm beyond that of ordinary mortals.

It is the same basic pattern as at the first coming of Jesus Christ. We are again in an hour when the Lord shall begin to bring out those who are ready to be shown as fully matured Sons of God. The era of the Manifested Sons is beginning to dawn. However, before the manifesting of the glory of the anointed ones, there is a preparatory ministry. The hearts of the people should be prepared for the revealing of the fully matured Sons soon to be unveiled, even while the world is travailing and groaning and waiting (*Matt. 3:3, Rom. 8:19-22, Jn. 1:31*). But once the manifesting of the anointed ones has begun, the preparation ministry is to recede into the background and the work of the end-time Sons of God will become dominant, in a ministry of deliverance to a creation that is groaning and travailing in pain of Great Tribulation (*Jn. 3:30*).

In the same pattern as at the first coming of Christ, that which is beginning to come forth will be very different from what has been expected. Even to those closely associated with the ministry of preparation, the strangeness of it shall be an offense and a potential trap to many. When the Sons of God begin to come forth, there shall be a stumbling, even as John the Baptist was offended at what did not conform to his previously conceived ideas (*Matt. 11:2-6*). He was not able to be released from his prison conditions, because he missed the truth in that hour (*Isa. 42:6-7, 61:1-2*). And in the days now upon us, many will find themselves in circumstances which make it very difficult to believe in what the Lord brings. They will say, "Surely my experience would be different, if what I am seeing is true." Being trapped by what does not line up with their concepts of what *should* be, they will not be able to fully cooperate with what is actually developing.

Therefore, take heed that your hearts are open in this hour to both note and receive what the Lord is doing instead of what religious man says He is doing. Truly the hour is at hand when God's Sons shall come out to be clearly manifested. Truly, Sons shall appear, as did Christ Jesus, who are no longer subject to death, having entered into immortality.

No son will be ready to be manifested as a Son of God without his having entered immortality in the physical body. But immortality is never to be poured over any man just because he knows about it and waits for it. There is no magic hour in which an anticipating Christian will suddenly be automated into immortality. It will not be at-

tained just by a lot of Bible reading. It will not be attained by believing in its place in the plan of God for all men, or for any man. It will not be attained just by having faith for it – because faith without works is useless. It will not be attained by many good works in just living a “good Christian life.” How then will it be put on? By coming to know all of what is involved and then by implementing that into constant daily living over the minimum time required. The pattern for attainment starts with full revealing, then acceptance as Truth, then willingness to live it, then testing to strengthen the resolve, then the consistent practice and finally the attainment. The pattern for attainment is by taking on precisely what is in *God’s* mind.

A few are getting the first taste of revealing, but that is just a start. There is yet much more to be received by anyone wishing to attain the Manifested Son status. The patterns of the full revealing are all within the content of God’s Word, though they have been veiled to the minds of the immature. Nevertheless, they are there in clarity for the earnest seeker. Surely every man should be able to see at least something of the way in the record of the life of Jesus, but very few of this generation have enough real interest in total conformance. Jesus was the first to gain earthly immortality, and He is the way for His corporate Body in the Kingdom Age.

Initially there are the two who will soon appear (the *Rev. II* witnesses), having already received immortality in earthly human bodies. And then within three or four days thereafter, another small portion of Sons will receive immortality in celestial bodies (as glorified Firstfruits of the living). The two witnesses manifesting immortality before the Firstfruits group is taken are John and Lazarus, although this “Son company” might possibly include a few servants. After 3½ years of their dramatic witness and after their departure with the Harvest company, another very small group will enter earthly immortality in human flesh. These will manifest as Sons who will remain on earth to be a firstfruits of all those who later enter earthly immortality during the Millennium age.

:2 A time of Great Tribulation on the earth is developing and the Lord is preparing a people who will be His special instruments during that time. These carefully selected people shall be used effectively when the foundations of the earth shake and the foundations of human society are breaking in pieces. It will be a fearful day! Men’s hearts will fail when they see the things that are coming. But the Lord Jesus Christ, the Yahweh Spirit of the Old Testament, will be a sanctuary and a covering for all who will put their full trust in Him. And He will shield them from all harm and provide for their needs (*Isa. 8:13-14*).

The time of Great Tribulation will also see the intensification of the expression of Satan’s fury against the Church. The primary thrust in imposing the philosophy of communism upon the people in communist dominated lands is the utter eradication of God and Christ from their minds and lives. But up to the initiation of the Great Tribulation period, the Church outside of the communist dominated countries will be largely apathetic to her danger, in some cases even joining hands with her destroyer. While the spiritual woman in the heavenlies is in “pain” to bring forth the Manchild on earth, the earthly woman Church is complacent, right up to the time of the birth. Then, the first of her seed (the Manchild) is glorified and caught up to the Throne. Immediately, all uncleanness in the general environs of the New Jerusalem above is purged. Satan and his host are forced out and away. Recognizing the impact of the five wise virgin’s group having entered the house of the Father and the door being closed to those not

ready, the foolish virgins of the Church on earth scurry to provide themselves with oil (*Matt. 25:8-10*). This group then becomes the nucleus of the remnant of the woman's seed left on the earth to do a mighty work for the Lord (*Rev. 12:15-17*).

So far we have analyzed only the world planet application of these truths disclosed through John. But let us not forget that God's Word is loaded with multiple applications. Across the span of these, we also find the application to the individual laboring to bring forth his own Manchild from within the earthen vessel microcosm of his own being and the progressive casting out of Satan from the heaven of the mind and the whole of his microcosm "world." This is mentioned as a reminder; elaboration will follow further on.

There is a difference between the woman and the Manchild which she brings forth. The term "man" is often used to symbolize the spirit which indwells the physical body and which is to rule that "house or home," whether the person indwelt be of the male or female gender. The term "woman" often symbolizes the soul which envelops the spirit and interpenetrates the physical body. In him or her who is spiritually a "man," the soul or seat of desire and emotion is subject to and ruled by the indwelling human spirit. Yet that is not the completion of the matter. It is written, literally, that the woman brought forth a son, a male (emphatic), who is about to begin shepherding all the nations with an iron rod. Although females will be among the Firstfruits, all glorified bodies will be complete, with male attributes patterned after Christ's own glorified body (*Phil. 3:21*). That would be the logical development from His perfect and complete glorified seed previously implanted in them. The Manchild (man indicating Spirit-prepared and Spirit-controlled) comes forth from the woman laboring in pain, to bring about a second fulfillment of the prophecy that the *seed* of the woman will trample the head of the serpent.

The head of the serpent houses both his brain and his lethal venom. Therefore, trampling his head involves the killing of Satan's patterns of influence projected against those in the Church of Jesus Christ. But in its full application, the trampling also *must* incorporate the overcoming of physical death itself. It is when the glorified ones return to lead those on earth and instruct on how to remove Satan from their midst, that the Good News of Everlasting well-being is to be proclaimed. Thus the seed of the woman shall yet again trample the head of the serpent, as did the Christ. God will use this Manchild to bruise the head of the serpent, because the pattern is true and must be fulfilled. The first fulfillment occurred when the woman Israel (the Church or called out ones of the Old Testament) gave birth to the man Jesus Christ, the Spirit-son of His heavenly Father, from the womb of the virgin Mary (*Ps. 2:7*). She gave birth to the Son of Man, and He matured into possession of immortal life in human flesh. As a human, he was caught up to be seated at the Throne of His God (*Jn. 6:27, 3:12-13*). Then His earthly ministry, as the Son of God, pained the Church. It was after He demonstrated victory over Satan that He disclosed His immortal life in a human body by the parable at the wedding in Cana (*Jn. 2*). And eventually, He took on glorified life when He came forth from the grave and was "born" into the glories of the heavenly realm (*Acts 13:30-33*).

The consummating fulfillment in this end-time will be in the same basic pattern, but through a plurality of Sons (*Rom. 8:29*).

Just prior to the Great Tribulation and the first sounding of the seventh Trumpet, there will be the showing or unveiling of two like the Son of God on earth. These are

two witnesses of Christ's personal work, long ago brought forth from the womb of the early Church and disciplined into immortality. These two come to prepare the Church, but they are also the initial fulfillment of the remnant seed of the ancient Israel woman. The Manchild subsequently taken into the heavenlies as the Firstfruits (the wise virgins caught up) becomes the fulfillment, in plurality, of glorified Sons of God. Being born into glorified life, they will demonstrate the pattern established by *the* Son of God when He was raised and glorified, to die no more. Then the times following the birth of the Sons will be full of trouble. Until the birth, the organized Church is complacent and apathetic (*Isa. 66:7*). But her anguish will come during a "40" after the birth, during the development of Great Tribulation (*Lk. 21:9-12, Rev. 12:12-13*). Opposition to truth will develop from many sources, primarily against the new "revolutionary" teaching. Satan has long been doing well in diverting men to traditional teaching.

The Manchild Sons who receive glorified bodies are the most choice of people from the midst of the Church. They will have walked with their God, and so like Enoch they shall be taken. They shall be caught up to the Throne and there will be invested with power to do what only a tested and tried people can do. Having overcome all the works of the enemy in the flesh, they shall be used to protect the faithful of the Tribulation Church. They will help others to overcome Satan in his own air and earth realm and will drive him out to its very borders, where he shall be hemmed in. They return to teach earth dwellers how to remove Satan from their midst, first in their own microcosm world, then physically from his space platform and then from the earth itself by his death. But it is when the Manchild Sons first go up that the devil begins to go out as a roaring lion to consume and destroy on the earth. Then those whom the Lord has raised up and glorified shall be used to stem the tide of anguish and destruction which Satan would bring against all followers of Christ yet on earth. It is written that a mighty chain shall be used to bind the power of the old serpent (*Rev. 20:1*). That chain which will gradually ensnare and bind is none other than the power and skill of the glorified company. Then shall the battle rage in total fury as maddened demons see their domain being stripped from them and the chains of limitation also being wrapped about them. The victory in the heavenlies is also to be fulfilled by a victory on earth (*Matt. 6:10*).

:3-5 Satan is seen as the huge fiery-red dragon. Fiery-red indicates he is ready for war or already in it, though not in the global stage (*Rev. 9:17*). He anticipates the birth of the seed of the woman and gathers his hosts of demons around her to divert and spoil, if possible, the Manchild's work on earth. However, the Manchild is caught up to a position of power and authority (to God and to His Throne) in both a sense of heavenly position and of earthly position. The first born has a double portion in Scripture, and the "seed of the woman" is dual (*Rev. 12:13,5,17*). Power is poured out upon both companies, but the heavenly Firstfruits also have immortal life.

To bring about the mighty victory at this consummation of the ages, the Lord will use His strategy of dividing to conquer. He will take that which He has prepared and will deploy it for His advantage. He will use His forces in a way that will bring the enemy into subjection and destroy his works. Those works are death and devastation and sorrow and confusion, the workings of chaos in the earth. Total elimination of the enemy's works will be by the overcoming of the primary effect of sin, which is death.

The first dividing will be that of the Manchild from the woman, separating those who are in the earthly Church and remain in mortal flesh from those who are brought

out of that Church to subsequently enter into immortality. Then there shall be a further dividing of the Church. After the Manchild body is glorified and taken, another smaller portion of the woman's seed is separated to remain on earth and to stay with the woman or earthly Church in the wilderness of Tribulation (**Rev. 12:17**). This portion will initiate and head the Glorious Church on earth whose prepared members will wield the power of God. Before the outset of Great Tribulation, it is just two or so who will have crossed over into incorruptible physical bodies of flesh on earth. At the close of the Great Tribulation, another few will enter earthly immortality, as a result of careful and constant attention to the requirements. But during the Millennium, those few will be joined by many thousands (**Acts 2:17-21**).

The Firstfruits portion of the "woman's seed," the 144,000 company of **Revelation 14:1**, is to be commissioned in the heavenly realm, which is also the pattern of Jesus entering glorified life. Having entered into the powers of the glorified life, they will be in a realm where death no longer has dominion over them – in either the earthly or the heavenly sphere. In them Satan no longer has any portion or hold. Both portions of the seed of the woman are in a real sense "caught up" to a position of power and authority, one to receive that of glorified life in the heavenly realm and one to enter the special empowerment of the earthly Great Outpouring of the Holy Spirit (**Jn. 6:40**).

From the moment that John and Lazarus enter Jerusalem as the two witnesses of **Revelation 11**, and their thunderous message begins to go forth, it is only three to four more days until the Lord visits His people like a thief in the night (**I Thess. 5:2-3**). On the seventh day of the lunar month of Nisan, John and Lazarus will suddenly appear in Jerusalem and begin to clean the spiritual Temple, both Jewish and Christian (**Jn. 2:13-17**). The thunder of their preaching will sound the midnight cry (**Matt. 25:6**). Then 3½ days later, the Lord's secret visitation will have been accomplished. Yet this is not His personal, bodily coming to earth. His *parousia* or being alongside at the outset of the Great Tribulation is for the specific purpose of stealthily removing the Firstfruits to God and the Lamb. The "gems" from all of Christendom will be missing.

Much of the organized Protestant Church holds and teaches that *all* of the Church membership will be raptured to God's Throne before Tribulation in intensity begins to engulf the world. But as we read further in **Revelation 12**, we find the woman still on earth after her Manchild is born and caught up to heaven. At the time of the dividing off of the Manchild, the woman is given the wings of an eagle to fly from the presence of the serpent into the wilderness. There she is nourished during 1260 days (**Rev. 12:6,14**). In this, we are shown very clearly that the bulk of the Church of Christ continues to remain on earth to go through the Great Tribulation period. It is not the woman who is caught away to the Throne of God, but rather her Manchild. The woman Church flees into the wilderness. The Manchild is the *new* life which is to be pushed out of the Church and taken up to the Throne. Because the organized Church, as a whole, has refused to honor the full Word of God and has thereby limited the Holy One of Israel, confusion has controlled – and still does. The Church has refused to recognize that Enoch was a type of and an example for the secret translation of the Firstfruits to God. Enoch *walked with* God and was not, for God took him secretly. Just as Enoch was taken before the flood, so shall the Firstfruits be taken before that hour of final testing which shall flood the earth (**Lk. 17:26-27; Rev. 3:10, 12:15**).

There is no record of anyone having witnessed the translation of Enoch; neither will

anyone see the Firstfruits leaving. However, when they are taken, the new day begins for those “five wise virgins” who had provided the extra oil for their lamps. The Church remaining on earth will then realize that its house has been broken through (**Lk. 12:39-40**), that the Lord has seen some as His jewels and that He had had compassion upon them (**Mal. 3:16-18**). Because they have kept the Word of His patience, the Lord will keep them out from the hour of testing which shall come upon the world to test them of the Church who dwell upon the earth (**Rev. 3:10-11**). The “five foolish virgins” remaining within the Church on earth then begin to lament.

The Lord’s initial *parousia*, or being alongside, begins in secret; but His final coming in glory to reign *with* His saints will be seen, even as the lightning strikes in the east and shines into the west, seen even by those who have turned their backs to Him (**Matt. 24:27**). The initial evidence of His *parousia* will strike fear and consternation within the Church. Three and one-half days after John and Lazarus begin thundering, the “jewels” will be found missing. Then 1260 days later, near the end of World War III, another evidence of His coming will be the lifting out and away of the hundreds of thousands who by that time will have met the minimum requirements (**Lk. 17:28-29, Rev. 7:9-10**). These, as was also Elijah, will be *seen* to go, seen by a few who are watchful. They will go in the midst of a glory in the heavenlies 3½ days after John and Lazarus are killed in Jerusalem.

In the Enoch-Elijah drama, the pattern is dramatized for the Firstfruits group and the later Harvest group. Enoch was the type of the *unseen* departure. Elijah was the type of the later departures which shall be *seen*, but only after having been prepared during 42 months as a result of the subsequent visits of those of the “Enoch” group. It matches the pattern of Jesus being seen to depart after His 40 days of ministry in a glorified body. The Bride, 144,000, Manchild group corresponds to the Enoch company taken up secretly, without seeing death and leaving others on the earth. The Harvest household group corresponds to the Elijah company openly taken up without seeing death and leaving an Elisha company on earth.

When there is a glorified and separated Church Body in the heavenlies, a glorious and separated Church Body must also be developed on earth (**Matt. 6:10**). The result of the work of the heavenly Bride and the Glorious Church on earth will be a fulfillment of the Elijah-Elisha drama: *another* dividing. The first dividing is at the beginning of the Great Tribulation and the second dividing is 1260 days later. Both Elijah and Elisha crossed the river Jordan on dry ground, but Elisha crossed on dry ground *twice*. We should see the symbolic significance in it. The waters of Jordan were rolled back each time, signifying the rolling back of death. Elisha first crossed with Elijah *before* Elijah was taken up, but then he crossed again *after* Elijah was taken. This preview indicates earthly immortality being granted to a very few at the time of the last Trumpet call for the Harvest company. Others in the “Elisha” company manifest immortality sometime after the close of the Great Tribulation period.

The Elijah company of many hundreds of thousands is seen to leave the earth. Then the Elisha group picks up the mantle of Elijah and crosses the Jordan on *dry* ground. The drying up of the rolling waters would also indicate the complete damming off of anger, frustration, discouragement, anxiety, jealousy, envy, etc. And as the Jordan river pictures the descending of turbulent soul-waters which separate the Promised Land from the wilderness of mortal life, the crossing of Jordan on dry ground symbolizes the

entering into deathless life or immortality. Before recrossing, Elisha tore his own clothes in two – another division. A few of the Glorious Church left on earth when the Elijah group is taken shall enter immortality, while the others will continue for a season in mortality. Like Elisha, some shall have a double portion of power, becoming no longer subject to death. The Elisha group of immortals, first a handful during the early years of the Millennium, builds to thousands as the years go by. They will wield the powers of immortality as did Jesus when He was on earth, having received life such as Jesus had as the first manifested Son of God (*Jn. 2:11*).

First, Enoch was taken out and caught up, and so shall the Manchild company be caught up into the heavenlies to wield the powers of *glorified* life just before the time of Great Tribulation on the earth. Later, Elijah was divided from Elisha by a chariot of fire, and so does this picture the movements of that Elijah group during the fiery close of the Tribulation encompassing the inhabitants of the earth. As Elisha saw Elijah in the whirlwind, so shall the whirlwind of God's judgment through the Elijah group be upon those who seek to destroy or harm the Elisha group left behind to enter into the powers of immortal life (*Prov. 10:25*). As Elisha did many more works than Elijah, so extraordinarily mighty work shall be done by the Manifested Sons on earth after the translation of the Elijah group (*Jn. 14:12-14*).

During the Tribulation, those who have entered glorified life will come and go from time to time to assist in discerning between what is helpful and what is harmful among those who are left on earth (*Mal. 3:16-18*). In this manner, the Lord's plan will be fulfilled and His body of overcomers will progressively nullify all the works of the enemy. The Lord will separate all ready for one realm from those ready for another realm. By the deployment of His forces in the place and realm of His choice, He will be able to overcome the works of the enemy and confound the imaginations of the proud.

The individuals in the Manchild group born by the woman Church become the Manifested Sons only as they enter into immortality and thereby come into the fullness of the Lord's purpose. Only those who have fulfilled the minimum requirements predetermined by God shall be manifested as Sons of God. There can be no deviation from the path the Lord lays down, and there can be no faltering in what He makes known to each one as to His purpose for that one's life. There must be no staggering through unbelief, nor lack of complete yielding to His will. His perfection (maturing) must be wrought out in each one for the purpose chosen for him, in the same general pattern as Jesus was made perfect through His experience as the first Manifested Son (*Heb. 2:10*).

It is not that a proven life of no error whatsoever is required of the Firstfruits; even then, they still evidence "leaven" in their lives (*Lev. 23:17*). It is that theirs is a proven life of no *willful* error. In short, the Firstfruits will have been found and proven fully dedicated to the carrying out of the Lord's plan for man, through their overcoming. They may or may not understand much more than the beginnings of that plan. They may even carry some error in understanding. But their dedication to the Lord and to His plan, in *enduring* faithfulness, is then beyond question.

Positions of higher responsibility require more extensive and more detailed training, strengthening and preparation. Each one must be willing to come into that which is made known to him and must be willing to forsake all for Jesus. Then these shall be perfected by the Lord's workings into the fullness of His purpose. These remain virgin to Him. With no lie on their lips, they have made and kept themselves blameless,

spotless and without blemish (*Rev. 14:1-5*). But the Lord will bring them forth because they had made Him the one supreme object of their every interest and desire. However, He is reasonable. He requires no more than He sees they are able to deliver. Then because of their faithful walk with God, like Enoch's, they are taken. They are to be brought forth in glory at the beginning of the Tribulation period, and then exalted to the heavenly Kingdom. They are those who were willing to prepare themselves ahead of others, having been thoroughly purified in Holy Spirit Baptism with Fire – the fire which consumes harmful desires.

Those who are later to be manifested on earth during the Millennium, as the earth-bound handful of Manifested Sons of the “Elisha” group, must also have been willing to make Christ the center of their lives. He plays no favorites. They also will seek only that which pleases Him and be willing to forsake all for Him. They too shall become Sons of God, as was Jesus when He walked the earth – but from the perspective of His perfect humanity, not His divinity. Whether into the heavenly or the earthly glory, those manifested must have entered into deathless life, for no son is ready to be manifested until ready to put on immortality (*Lk. 20:36; Rom. 1:4, 8:19,29,21,23,11*).

For each one who has made himself ready, a time shall come when it will be made known what the Lord requires. Although there are the general requirements for all who are to be manifested, there are also specific requirements for each, being a different organ in the Body. When the Lord makes known His plan and purpose for each one, of course, each should be willing to accept what is shown. Then the son would proceed according to the instructions given, making himself completely available for whatever the Lord chooses for his life.

These Manifested Sons will have come to the place where everything of this world and its carnality has been given up for the sake of the Lord's purpose for them. And then He shall begin to do through them that which only those who have adequately overcome can do. They shall be used by the Lord to speak forth His Word (prophecy) with wisdom and authority. A realm beyond that of ordinary mortals shall be committed unto them, and they shall walk in the strength of their God and shall know His will at all times. Therefore, they will make known what God requires of the inhabitants of this earth. And from the time that they enter immortality until the time of their glorification, they shall proclaim the Word of the Lord in such a way that all will marvel at what proceeds from their lips.

So, prepare! He promises to make the way plain, *if* you will heed His voice. First, the Lord must become Head of His Church. Only after that, will He make His personal appearance, setting His feet on the Mount of Olives.

In our day, the Lord shall develop and train a company of overcomers. He shall bring out those like Joseph who have overcome all the attempts of the unfaithful Church, represented by Potiphar's wife, to lure them into its bedroom and commit fornication. He shall set before the world those who, like Joseph, have been misunderstood, falsely accused and consigned to the dungeon of oblivion by others who feel they are in the favored position in the affairs of the religious world. He shall raise up these overcomers in an hour when the forces of darkness are threatening to bring a great destruction upon the earth. The Lord shall then cause them to go out with full knowledge of His will and purpose for the hour so that they might prepare the way for their brothers who are ready to be brought into the way of truth. Surely He will!

Even now, the Lord is again preparing in the pattern seen by Joseph when he was given dreams upon his bed (*Gen. 37:5-11*). First, Joseph dreamed that his sheaf was exalted above the sheaves of his brothers. Has not the Lord said that He will bring forth a Firstfruit Sheaf to be exalted in a position of power and authority, so that a great increase, a glorious Harvest, shall be totally His (*Matt. 9:36-37*)? Then is not a Firstfruits "loaf" to be baked from the grain of the One Sheaf (*Lev. 23:10, 17*)? In the same pattern as applied to Jesus Christ, this "loaf" is also to precede and influence the development of His tremendous Harvest on the earth. First, a matured Firstfruits loaf must be prepared. Then that "loaf" must be brought into a realm in Christ where it is caught up to a place of authority (*Rev. 12:5*). The loaf and the Manchild are one and the same. They are both types of that company of overcoming saints which shall come forward to be manifested in these last days of the age as the Sons of God.

The Lord will also fulfill the second dream which Joseph saw. In this dream, he saw the sun, the moon and the stars bowing down to him. The eleven stars represented his brothers, and the sun and the moon represented his father and mother. In the same way, this dream is a preview of the end-time events pictured in *Revelation 12*. It is to be fulfilled when the Joseph Manchild is separated from the father discipline of the organized Church and the body of its mothering traditional teachings. From the Christian Churches an initial few emerge, clothed in Spirit power and having dominion over the soulish pulls. Since Joseph was but one of the twelve stars in the dream-vision, there also will be other brother leaders coming out of the Church and away from its teachings, to overcome sin and error through conscious and joyful choice of that which is in God's plan for the ultimate good. They represent those who are to start building the Glorious Church. That Glorious Church will then progressively expand and ultimately replace the woman from whom both the Manchild and the Glorious Church issue. Since the other stars and the sun and the moon were seen bowing down to Joseph, we are to understand that after the Manchild company is suddenly taken away from the family, it is then caught up to a position of great power and authority. Thus shall the Church be brought willingly into submission to those who are in the Manchild company.

Joseph saw in his dreams that which was to come. In like manner, the Lord has been revealing what is now coming to those destined to be in this Joseph company. They are held responsible for making known these revealings to their brethren, although many will not believe nor receive the revelation and, in fact, will reject those who proclaim it. Nevertheless, the Lord still holds them accountable for declaring what He has shown them.

We live in the time when the Lord is moving to bring this vision in His Word into fulfillment. The Lord will have a Glorious Church clothed in the power of His Spirit and functioning in the fullness of the New Covenant. But first He brings forth a Manchild company which will be given a place of authority, even beyond that of those who later become the Glorious Church. The Glorious Church and the Manchild are one in the Spirit (unity), but different in function. Much of this difference yet remains to be revealed. Therefore, keep your hearts open to receive more of the vision and revelation of this hour, lest you be like Joseph's brothers who would not receive what was told them.

Solomon's Temple has two mighty pillars of brass refined in the fires. Brass refined by fire is symbolic of the base characteristics of man's carnal wisdom and philosophy purged, refined and transmuted by the working of the Holy Spirit (fire). This brass is to

be cast into the image of Christ (*Rev. 1:15, 3:12, 10:1*). Jachin (“He will establish”) was the first pillar (*I Ki. 7:21*), and represents the establishment in power of those God raises up to Himself. They shall establish the Kingdom in power, first in the heavens and then on earth. The second was Boaz (“strength”), representing those left on earth to minister in power in that realm.

Both of these pillars were adorned and beautified, as the end-time Body of Christ is to be graced with the beauty of holiness, godliness, humility, glory, boldness, overcoming power and victory (*Eph. 5:27*). The 200 pomegranates on each pillar picture the fruitfulness brought forth by those who become pillars in the end-time Church (*I Ki. 7:22*). The numeral 2 is the number of division, discernment and screening, with a view to rejoining in truth. The 200 on each pillar show that the separation wholly to Christ has been complete, reaching through the plane of soul into the plane of human spirit – total dedication with understanding. The Lord is *now* gathering together His people who have made with Him a covenant of sacrifice (*Ps. 50:5*).

:6 The “woman” of today’s organized Church must flee into the wilderness to a place of preparation and safety. She finally runs from the environmental control of the dragon into the wilderness setting of severe testing of her faithfulness to Christ and His plan for living. Then the Lord continues the work of preparation for 1260 days (42 months or 3 ½ years – the duration of the Great Tribulation). When the “jewels” are stolen, the woman suffers shock at being left behind. She had not prepared herself. But before the newly repentant woman enters her ministry with full power, the remnant of her seed must be raised up as her leaders (*Rev. 12:17*). This group is younger in order of appearance than the group which will make up the enlightened Church, but is more advanced. Therefore, it is chosen to lead the faithful of the Church during the initial phase of the Great Tribulation period. Perhaps we can now see this woman as the woman of *Matthew 13:33* who prepared three categories, the 100, 60 and 30-fold believers (*Matt. 13:23*). But note the reference to leaven in all three groups, a residue and ferment of perverted truth in a whole loaf of righteousness.

:7-11 After the Firstfruits Manchild group has been taken up into power at the outset of the Great Tribulation period, the final conflict in *the* heavens breaks out. Michael (meaning “who is like God”) and his angels (messengers, agents) defeat the dragon who is called the devil, Satan and the deceiver of the whole world (*II Cor. 11:14*, a lying “angel of light”). Satan and his followers are ousted and moved in closer to earth and its terrestrial space and atmosphere. It is indicated that the translation of the Firstfruits Manchild group, the 144,000 group of *Revelation 14:1*, is intimately involved in the timing of the throwing down of Satan and his army in defeat (*Rev. 12:11*). When the Bride is received into the upper stratosphere, the whole heavenly neighborhood is cleaned up. There is then to be a “honeymoon” which is not to be blemished. Therefore, Michael and his subordinate angels are assigned to purge the whole area of all rowdies, hoodlums and gangsters. The Bride is there to enjoy her Husband. She is not even to do any housework immediately. So she herself does not go to war, but her arrival serves to time the war.

God has designed all things to conform to His same basic patterns. The pattern for the Church is the same pattern to be applied to each person – to you. As the Church must do for herself, so must each man do for himself. Preservation, strength, the Kingdom of God and the power of His Christ are to be realized on earth when and because

of the dragon being cast down out of *the* heaven (*Rev. 12:9-10*).

We read very clearly that the dragon, the serpent, the devil, Satan, has deceived the *whole* world – all its inhabitants. That statement means you have received much of what is not true. It also means you will continue to do so, until Lucifer has been cast out of that “heaven” in you which provides a haven for him. Unless you have cast Satan out, by cementing yourself to the purity of God’s Word as it is in His mind, you go to church and come away with more misleading information. The tares of the enemy have been and are planted in the field of *Christians* (*Matt. 13:25*). Men go to secular institutions of learning and come away brainwashed to a still greater extent. Our world society’s entire way of life is that of Babylon which draws into spiritual adultery, whether in religious, economic, or political arenas (*Rev. 18:2-6*).

In the Old Testament, the personal process was illustrated by the Israelites leaving Egypt for the Promised Land. Pharaoh typed Satan and Egypt, the world order. Egypt would have been a desert without the flow of the Nile’s waters through its middle, sending irrigation threads into all the producing area. Yet the Nile in its course winds like a serpent, nurturing tares as well as wheat. Satan was identified with the serpent in the ancient beginnings. The Sinai peninsula is shaped like a heart, but it is a stony-hard wilderness. The two arms of the Red Sea (the Gulfs of Suez and Aqaba) are like the jaws of a dragon enclosing Sinai. The Chosen People had to move away from Egypt and its Nile and overcome the Sinai’s hindrances and then leave it, before reaching the Promised Land. This in the Old Testament is for our instruction today (*I Cor. 10:11*).

In the microcosm which is man, the brain is the heaven or uplifted part. There is the throne for the human spirit which comes from God. There the seat of judgment is centered, for weighing and evaluating. It is there that the swift messengers (angels) of thought and impulse fly. Ruling orders issue from the throne room to govern every one of the multitudinous functions in the microcosm. And it is in the thoughts and associated emotions that Satan operates. There is the heaven of the microcosm from which Satan must be ejected so that preservation, strength, the rule of God without competition and the power of His Christ can be established. The accuser and criticizer (the adversary) must be cast down, before the glory and power of Christ can fill your life to overflowing.

How is Satan to be cast down? It is our nature to see error, fault, shortcomings and evil in others, because it pictures self in a favorable light in a flattering mirror. In thoughts and emotions, and perhaps in spoken word, *we* become accusers of our brethren day and night. Sometimes the accusations are well founded; sometimes exaggerated in our imagination. Even when well founded, we can attribute a wrong motive to the other person, becoming judges of others’ inner workings. We err in judging motivation-justification. Only God can truly see inside. Christians are more inclined toward accusing the brethren than non-Christians, because they know better what ought to be. Downgrading others seems to help in upgrading the mirror-image of self.

Every thought and emotion and response to those inclinations must be brought captive to the pattern which is Christ’s. God has granted to every believer the right and authority to cast out the demon thought and emotions – in the name (power) of Jesus. If they are so managed, there can be no problem of wrong physical responses. It is the Lord’s firm position that you ultimately will come into the stature of your Father – even if the process necessitates much disciplining. You are to grow up and secure your

education with honors. When you have that training, He will then place you in charge of others to supervise their learning.

In the meantime, He is in full charge and will take complete care of every little detail. In the meantime, *you* are the problem (not the one you can accuse day and night). He wants *you* to pace yourself in His own footprints. Your work and assignment are so fantastic it calls for everything you have. This is the work of God assigned to you: that you believe *into* Him whom He has sent. Every moment of your time, the utmost energy you can muster, all that you have and all that you are, are required to achieve and to enter before the deadline.

Adam received Eve to wife, and she occasioned his exile, strenuous labors, perspiration, sickness, sorrow and finally death. In the microcosmic correlation, your will is Adam and your imagination is Eve. The two are married. It is utterly impossible for you to let "Eve" make the decisions and set the policy with impunity. That is contrary to God's plan – and is also unreasonable, leading to emotional excess. Even the imperfect medical science of today knows that certain emotions, such as anger, suspicion, jealousy, hatred, or even a domineering attitude, will eventually develop arthritis, gallstones and other ailments. Of course, there are other causes as well. Our glands, and the cells of the body too, are intimately linked with our thinking and emotional patterns. Therefore, inhale no poisonous fumes from the pit. Eve did so when learning at Lucifer's feet. All of these combine to wreck your health, ruin your fortune, and heap misery high upon you, placing you in abject serfdom to the Master of the Abyss.

Kick out and cast down the accuser of our brethren. Jesus Christ has given the power. Go to the blood of the Lord in order to take a fresh stand in righteousness. Take on the cleansing of His Word to maintain it. *Use* the Word of the Testimony; don't fracture it. Tell people of the perpetual joy which lives in your heart. Speak to them of the power of Christ to actually transform lives through His work of absolute redemption and purchase, which He completed on Calvary for here and now. A part of your joy and faith rubs off. Also your testimony itself develops increased potential within to live for the glorification of Christ. Refuse to dwell on what is harmful, or even anything that bothers (*Jn. 14:27*). If it persistently returns, command it in the name of Jesus Christ to return to the pit. "Lord Jesus, take it away!" It is your right, and in your power. It is your duty to cast down such devils.

The power to enter into the Lord's Kingdom here and now comes through a Manchild, born of the woman but caught up to God. The term "man" shows it is to be of the will or determination. But the growth and emergence is through the "woman" of *the* Faith. There is a mystic "body" or Faith-seed of Christ within the believer having it. That "body" is there, or you are none of His. The battle in the "heavenlies" (the realm of your thought and emotion) is won by Michael (he who is like God). The Michael who wins is to be you, by virtue of the "Manchild" begotten within. Michael wins as and when you determine by the grace of God to become like Jesus Christ, and yourself rule your microcosmic kingdom with a rod of iron – no compromise, no bending of Truth. When bitterness, resentment, suspicion, criticism brood within there is none of God's deep peace which is the fruit of His Kingdom for the here and now. Without that deep peace, you are only close to His Kingdom – at the best. But when you commence to live in the serenity of His peace and then perpetually continue in it, you will also find that your life becomes charmed. It is because Christ the Lord is in complete charge of

your life. That brings absolute peace and joy. That is then a personal New Jerusalem above. Jesus taught that, even under what may appear to be adverse circumstances of the moment, you should leap and shout for joy! He certainly should know what is of great importance. So hold this truth constantly in mind! With violence, seize the Kingdom of Joy for the here and now. Cast out every assailing demon. Dump out the particle truths, untruths and wishful thinking. Continually and perpetually cast out and down the “dragon.” Then you can and should shout and rejoice in the increasing power and glory of God’s Kingdom within – having made yourself ready.

Then it can be proclaimed that the preservation of man, the power, the Kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come. This must apply first to individuals before it can become effective in a group or assembly. It must take place in the microcosm so ultimately it can become fact in the macrocosm of the earth planet and its associated heaven. With thought and emotion under control, the Firstfruits receive for themselves the promised authority and power. Satan is being dispossessed of his access to the heavenlies, as he will later be dispossessed of his material earthly outposts (*Rom. 16:20*). The Kingdom has come, because Satan is overcome – by God’s power within mere man!

Satan is the prince of the power of the air (a heaven) and the prince of this world (*Eph. 2:2, Jn. 12:31*). Prior to the Great Tribulation, he still has access to a portion of the spirit heaven realm (*Rev. 12:12*); however, at the beginning of the Great Tribulation he is deprived of this upper stratosphere of operations and restricted to activity on the material borders of his realm near to and on the surface of the earth. But his remaining time to work in this age is then only 3 ½ years.

: 12 Heaven rejoices at being freed from Satan’s activities, but the earth is in deep trouble. Because Satan knows he has only 3 ½ years left, he comes down in great wrath to take personal control and causes great havoc before his power is completely broken. The “earth” is all that is of physical man, his systems and his organization. The “sea” is the masses of people in confusion of soul, knowing not where to turn in their bitterness at losing all they had become used to depend upon (*Isa. 57:20, Jude 12-13*).

: 13-14 In order to prevent as many as possible from turning to Christ and strengthening the army of saints that will dispossess him on earth, Satan turns his full attention to destroying the woman. It is she who produced the Manchild whose presence necessitates Satan’s ejection from the heavenlies, and who will minister in power during the days of Tribulation. It is she within whom the Glorious Church has had its source. But “eagle’s wings” are given her, preventing the immediate destruction planned by Satan for the Church’s faith (*Ps. 91:4*). The “wings” God provides bring transportation, protection, overshadowing and shielding from physical destruction and vilification. The eagle’s wings enable her, if she will, to soar into the heavens with endurance and vision, rising above the storms. Two wings, extensions of His Body, are given for her support – the celestial Manchild and the earth-bound remnant of her seed, teaching the Law and the Testimony (*Isa. 8:20*).

In a more physical and partial application, the “woman” identifies with the mother Church organization headquartered in the Vatican. When Italy and its government in Rome come under the compelling influence of the anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-religion communist elements, the Roman Church will come under terrific pressure. The Pope was at the center of hatred from the Kremlin for hindering its work of consolidation in

Poland and elsewhere. The communists have seen the Greek Orthodox countries come over first, and the Roman Catholic countries rapidly follow. Soon after communists control Italy, the Pontiff will see the “handwriting on the wall.” Some of the communists may even help him escape, fearing public opinion against his being murdered or imprisoned. He will flee for his life to the USA where his presence will come very close to being an “abomination of desolation” to the USA and could accelerate its downfall. Then will the Vatican be plundered and razed by communists. The USA has invited this development by reestablishing diplomatic relations with the Vatican, as with a nation.

Soon the moment of crisis will arrive. The woman shall be stripped of her Italian possessions. The two wings of transport aircraft belonging to a God-fearing nation, at least nominally God-fearing, which has the flying eagle as its insignia, will be sent to physically move her head to the USA for protection and support during the Great Tribulation. Then, at least in some lands, the severe wilderness testing of faith and loyalty to Christ will be her lot. Eventually the “naked” Roman Catholic Church is to be regenerated and cleansed, re-emerging in Spirit power to help the Greek Orthodox and the five main Protestant Churches do the same (*Isa. 3:17-4:2*).

Her Protestant Church daughters will also come under similar pressure. However, there is a difference in the duration of the testing. The Mother Church will be tested during 1260 days; “the hour of testing” (*Rev. 3:10*) for the daughters is to be about 635 days, the latter half of the 1260 day period. Thus both Mother and daughters will have ample opportunity to prove faithfulness during the extreme conditions of World War III and its associated mark of the beast. In that day there will be great pressure and danger from Satan-inspired hordes of people who will be whipped to a frenzy by his hate-inspired apostles – his apostles within the Church as well as outside. They will pour out their venom of hatred upon those who are then warning of the coming wrath and who are preaching a message of repentance. The lives of God’s called out ones will be potentially in constant danger from those who want to silence the proclaimers of righteousness. Those whose deeds are evil will hate the Light and the Truth.

Therefore, God’s people will be sensitive to hear His voice so He can protect them and lead them to places of safety. At times they will be awakened in the night and told to move to another location because of the danger that surrounds them. God’s angels and the glorified saints (Firstfruits) will be present and will appear to direct them where to go and instruct them in what they are to do. It will be a fearful time when chaos reigns in the earth and when the hate-inspired forces of the enemy seek to destroy those who would warn the population of the world and turn it from its harmful ways. Those on earth of the seed of the woman, who have initiated the Glorious Church at the Pentecost, shall have greater contact with the unseen world. They will receive constant guidance and protection from the world beyond and they shall be able to speak the accurate Word of the Lord to all who are in need of direction. The initial handful of Spirit-empowered ones on earth and the glorified ones in the heavens will be in constant communication and they will provide help and guidance to the faithful woman as she ministers in that day.

Because of the great danger from both hysterical mobs and frightened authorities, much pressure will be put on all who tend to deviate from man’s accepted patterns of behavior and approved procedures of religious activity. Even the religious world will

set up standards of what is acceptable for the welfare of the nation in times of extreme crisis. All who dare not to conform will be persecuted relentlessly as fanatics and harmful deviates by those who pose as the religious voices of the land. The Lord's true servants will be buffeted from all sides, as people crazed by fear seek every available means to silence them. People as a whole will refuse to listen to those who would call them to repentance and warn of impending judgment. As it is in measure today, so it will be in intensity tomorrow. The faithful Body of Christians will be restricted socially and politically in its worship practices, but will nevertheless continue to meet together, with the Lord's enabling.

Because of the intensity of opposition from religious and civil sources, the Lord will have the Body assemble in small groups in places He will show. At many times the members will have to meet in secret, because there will be a clamping down on all considered to be fanaticism. So great will be the boldness of Christ's servants in that day and so astounding will be their message and their works, that the authorities will act to try to stop the meetings. Therefore, those of the true Body will have to learn how to come and remain very close to Him and how to work out what He shows. Then will He direct them in all their ways and show them when and where to gather together. But without adequate preparation now, there might be a missing of His vital instruction in time of emergency.

There will also be danger from natural disasters and man-caused eruptions in that day. In many places disasters will strike suddenly and in many places battles will rage furiously. If God's people were not warned, surely they would perish. The Lord will give warnings to all the faithful who are in danger, in order that they might flee to places of safety and avoid the forces of destruction. They shall be told where to go to escape. The warnings will be both by vision and by the appearance of the glorified saints. These will be empowered to bear up God's people, if need be, and transport them to places of safety. At times His people will be clothed and fed by supernatural means, as they are obedient to His voice and follow His instructions. *His* people need have no fear, for the Lord will surely keep and protect them (*Ps. 91*). But be very careful to understand who "His people" are. Even now all things are being made ready so that nothing will be amiss when the time of Great Tribulation comes upon the earth.

Once more it is said that the woman is again placed in the wilderness of thorough testing for 3½ years, from which she can then "cross Jordan." If she will become and remain faithful, she can come into the Promised Land at the end of the Great Tribulation – as many individuals as are then ready. Actually, the woman is *the* true Faith which is building among the faithful of the Church. The testing is to reveal and strengthen *the* Faith of believers in Jesus Christ – not to test believers for a faith they never had.

: 15-16 Through his activities, Satan causes a flood of lies, deception, vilification and persecution to pour out – to turn multitudes away from the Church and to deceive even the elect, if that were possible (*Matt. 24:24*). The river of lies and persecution is like the Jordan river in its flood season, bringing destruction and death by its muddy waters. Many will turn away, being persuaded they were deceived by their Church and were cheated out of opportunity of being "raptured" as Firstfruits. But as with the Jordan River, the Lord will dam up the "waters" while *His* people cross over to possess the "land" prepared. The earth opens her mouth and swallows up the flood spued out to engulf the woman.

The help of the “earth” here indicates the assistance and teaching on earth by the saints of the Bride and the Glorious Church. Their physical bodies are made of earth elements. They shall open their mouths to speak words of help and deliverance. In this way, they will nullify the fear-instilling propaganda against the true Church and the threats and persecution then being poured out on the faithful Christians. Members of the Bride company will be able to appear to individual saints and to groups gathered together. It will be just as Jesus appeared to the Disciples when they had shut themselves in behind barred doors, because of fear of the Jews outside (*Jn. 20:19,26*). Jesus dispelled their fears and gave them new hope and courage. Also, the glorified Firstfruits group will have control of the elements of the earth and the forces of nature to help those being attacked. They will have entered into the first stage of what will eventually be an absolute mastery over all the elements of the earth.

: 17 The Lord has two companies of prepared peoples; one on the “west side of Jordan” corresponding to the glorified Firstfruits, the other on the “east side of Jordan” corresponding to His anointed overcomers in the Glorious Church (many 1000’s) still on earth (*Dan. 12:5*). Both will be engaged in battling the enemy. For many now, the “40” of testing and preparation in the wilderness has been completed in time for a second fulfillment of some of God’s chosen coming to the Promised Land. But when the Manchild is caught up to the New Jerusalem above as the Bride of Christ, the resultant effect upon the Church on earth is profound shock, almost wishful disbelief. Immediately, there is wholesale apostasy among nominal “Christians” (*II Thess. 2:2-3*). It is another dividing within the earthly Church, before the Great Tribulation gets well underway.

As this dividing takes places, the *Revelation II* two witnesses continue to thunder out their message of Truth and cite the need of repentance for both Christian and Jew. These two are Manifested Sons, declaring God’s Word in the empowerment of physical immortality. The combined effect of the impact of God’s Truth reported by the two witnesses and the shock of the sudden disappearance of the 144,000 Firstfruits from the nations of Christendom brings immediate positive reaction among a few. These few are then so impressed, they turn wholeheartedly to prayer and fasting in seeking the Lord’s face. These few are the foolish *virgins* who found themselves refused entrance with the Bride Company because of their lack in preparation (*Matt. 25:10-12*). These become the initiators of the Glorious portion of the Church which will then rapidly expand. These become the leaders of all who will 3 ½ years later follow the Bride into the presence of the King (*Ps. 45:14*). Undiluted seeking the Lord for His purifying Holy Spirit Baptism results in a further dividing of the Church, taking place during the 56 days following the translation of the Firstfruits. It is the beginning of the Glorious Church. But it also initiates final tearing apart from the unfaithful woman Church on earth still unwilling to repent (*Rev. 2:20-23, 18:6-8*).

The repentant, seeking virgins who had been foolish and the *Revelation II* two witnesses head up a new development within the true Church on earth. They are the remainder of the faithful woman Church’s seed or offspring who obey God’s commandments and who possess the Testimony of Jesus Christ (*Rev. 12:17*). At the second Pentecost, 56 days after the Bride is removed from the Church as by a thief at about midnight (Jerusalem time), this small group is invested with power to overcome all enemy hosts operating against Christians on earth. They of this group become the leaders within the developing Body of faithful Christians. They receive the *Great Out-*

pouring of the Holy Spirit upon them and are then in position to lead others into the Lord's empowerment. The devil and his fallen angels are thus caught between two overcoming armies, the heavenly and the earthly. There is the army of Michael in the heavenlies and the army of the Glorious Church on earth. At least during 40 days, those on earth will be fortified and encouraged and instructed by the Bride company "Standard" raised up to heaven (*Isa. 59:19*). Thus the enemy is placed in a vise, a giant pincers movement, to be crushed.

You too will be used, *if* you will let Jesus equip you with His armor and weapons and if you will allow Him to train you in His ways of warfare through implicit obedience. God's pattern, set forth throughout His Word, is to separate and classify according to purity and loyalty, and then deploy His forces to destroy all the workings of the enemy. In our time, there is first a dividing of the Manchild *Firstfruits* from the woman Church – a separation of those born out of the Church into glorified immortality. Then there is a separation of another group from the man-organized woman Church to become the Glorious Church on earth (*Eph. 5:25-27*). Some from the Church will be caught up into the heavens and some will be left on earth. Those left on earth become the leaders of a new Church development, a Glorious Church development during the period of Great Tribulation, so that a *great* Harvest can be realized at its conclusion.

Then comes a further dividing when the Harvest is gathered into the heavenlies. As the translation of Enoch (not seen to go) was separated in time from that of Elijah (seen to go), so is the rapture of the Firstfruits separated in time from the taking up of hundreds of thousands at the Harvest maturity. Then even as Elijah was taken and Elisha remained, so also at the time of Harvest group departure there will be those few remaining on earth, some of whom will enter earthly physical immortality (crossing the Jordan on dry ground). Those immortals become the leaders of the Church of the following "Sabbath" age and its subsequent work week of 6,000 years. Those immortals on earth will be the Manifested Sons of that day, even as Jesus was the Manifested Son of His day.

Man's Political Rule

REVELATION 13

The events of *chapter 12* are concurrent with the Great Tribulation from its beginning to its end. Its pictures follow the initial blowing of the seventh Trumpet, at which time those in heaven rejoice because the Lord's "eternal" reign is beginning (*Rev. 11:15*). After the Firstfruits company has been taken up and Satan ejected from the heavenlies, Satan is permitted to war against those who are in some way separated from others (saints), and overcome them during the remaining 3 ½ years of the age. Always, the Jews have been a people separated from others, separated by the Lord for His purpose. Those in the new nation of Israel are particularly separated, although not yet recognizing their Messiah. These people are the "saints" primarily in view in *Revelation 13:7*, and they are to be overcome by the beast. In a secondary application, the beast will also come against Christian nations, and prevail in measure – up to the end of the 42 month period (*Rev. 13:5*).

Just as *Revelation 12* describes the Church during the seventh Trumpet period, *Revelation 13* describes the political government of man during that same period, the Great Tribulation. By the beginning of this 3 ½ year term, the beast is seen already having crowns of authority on its seven heads (*Rev. 12:3*). Somewhat *later*, the beast is seen having added the ten crowns on its horns, indicating the beast system then has fully come into its end-time exercise of authority and rule, and is in its ascendancy (*Rev. 13:1*).

: I John was shown the stage set of this end-time drama. The set was the sand of the sea! The true and viable Church is built upon the Bedrock of Jesus Christ, as proclaimed by the foundation ministries (*Matt. 7:24, Eph. 2:20*). But here John is seeing the woman Church standing on sand. (There were no chapter divisions in the early texts.) When bedrock erodes by the action of water, it becomes sand which no longer has cohesive power. Jesus said that the man who builds on that is foolish. Here is seen the prophetic view of the time when the glorious Truth of Jesus Christ shall have been fractured, in a long, long process, into small particle fragments by the stress from human emotions, until the great central Truth is no more. That which remains is then a mass of non-cohesive half-truths, particle-truths and untruths. Often the particle-truths are the more deceptive in their subtlety and therefore worse than outright lies (*Lk. 18:8, II Tim. 3:5-7*). The sea is symbolic of the masses of the people (*Rev. 17:15*). And it is the waves of the sea of emotional turmoil which have fractured the Rock. It is the waves of that sea which have broken His Truth into fine sand. See the hundreds of sects and denominations. See how few of the divinity students believe in the return of Christ to earth and, of those, many do not even believe in God!

Then John saw a beast coming up out of that sea. Because it requires time to break

down the Rock into sand, it has taken nearly 2,000 years since Christ to disclose that the best Christendom can bring forth is the evil monstrosity of the basest instincts of man – the beast of prey. Our God has held the Church responsible for the spiritual estate of its people. But for most in Catholic and Greek Orthodox lands, its conduct has been so evil that communism has had little trouble winning the battle. It is out of the sea of Christendom that a beast has developed (*Rev. 17:1,15*). The beast has seven heads, and the seven connects with the Church in Scripture. These heads picture formerly Christian nations and their rulers (*Rev. 17:9-10*). Because this beast must come out of Christendom, it derives its strength and its capacity to dictate from a union of seven “Christian” nations which have turned from their previous relationship with God. Many passages in Scripture tell of the judgment on Israel and the world (natural and spiritual Israel and the other religions) that will come from the north (*Joel 2:20; Jer. 1:13-14, 6:1; Ezek. 38:6,15-16*). This beast is not the city of Rome, nor the Vatican, but is the coordinating government over a major portion of the lands which long ago came under the influence of the Holy Roman Empire (western and eastern). The sea beast is centered in the Greek Orthodox land of Russia. The area of the former Soviet Union is this beast of the end-times which has already had its inception as the communist combine of nations.

When the beast is fully risen out of the sea and looms on the horizon, we should see a close-knit confederation of seven formerly “Christian” nations, having taken in ten adjoining autonomous nations which serve as protective buffers for the seven heads. Horns are for the purpose of taking blows, as well as for offensive action against others. The heads are grown previous to the development of the horns upon them; and then horns grow also upon other horns. Horns generally grow in pairs, so we could look for 20 countries, most of them Islamic, but controlled by 10 rulers (*Rev. 17:12*). The seven head nations are to be fully functioning in unison with each other and with the body of the beast, prior to the horns developing on the heads. The seven, include Russia and other all formerly Christian nations which have embraced or will embrace, God-opposing communism – the name of blasphemy on the heads. As for the horns, ten is the number of the Gentiles as well as that of the Law. The ten horns, therefore, will include some Christian nations yet to turn communist, and many more not Christian but functioning under religious *law*. Italy will be one of the ten – a horn, not a head. The ten will surely include several Moslem nations. During its development, the beast empire of communism will be greatly expanded by internal revolution in many nations and by overt aggression.

After the Firstfruits are translated and Satan is cast down (*Rev. 12:9*), Satan takes absolute possession of one of the functioning authorities in the Kremlin. Through that brain and body, he will personally lead an all-out attempt to take over the nations of the world. Hordes of demons will be aiding, by whipping unregenerated humans and inadequately prepared believers into a frenzy of mass hysteria and fear unprecedented in human history (*Lk. 21:25-26*). About the mid-point of the Great Tribulation, the fully integrated beast empire will embrace a total of seventeen adjoining or contiguous nations willing and ready to give their authority and power to the prince from the pit during his personal rule in human garment (*Dan. 7:7-8*).

The ten nations are seen crowned to rule in authority and power along with the beast for “a single hour” (*Rev. 17:12*). How long is this single hour? It is during the period of that progressive return and work of Jesus in the second watch *and* the third watch – not

“or” (*Lk. 12:38*). When speaking of His work on earth, Jesus equated the twelve hours of daylight to His period of ministry (*Jn. 11:9*). That ministry in His Father’s business extended 21 years from age 12 to age 33. The single hour therefore would be $\frac{1}{12}$ of the 21, which would be the final 21 months of the Great Tribulation. Elsewhere we see also that the great destruction in the $3\frac{1}{2}$ year “Day of the Lord” begins at the middle of the “Day” (*Ps. 91:6; Jer. 15:8, 6:2-5*). The Great Tribulation period is of 42 months duration (*Rev. 11:2*). Therefore, we would expect to see the ten horns fully crowned only at the midpoint of the final $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of this age. Thus we can understand that **Revelation 13** describes the final 21 months of Great Tribulation. The coronation of the *seventeen* nation beast halfway through the Great Tribulation initiates his *concluding* stage.

The ten horn nations receive their strength and direction from the seven head nations. The seven head nations draw from the main body. But upon the heads and horns are names of blasphemy. Therefore, the majority of the head and some of the horn nations have believed in Christ, but they turn to blaspheming and apostatizing from Christ. They all must be nations assuming a “name” or philosophy which repudiates Christ and God, or repudiates God. The horns will be the first to engage Israel and Christian nations in battle (virulent hatred of Israel and Christians). This confrontation is expected to start during Nisan of the Hebrew calendar (March/April), continue and increase through a second year. Then the heads will join in January in full scale war.

Why is it of value to recognize the time of the ten kings being crowned? How could that affect you, if you are or yet to become a dedicated disciple of Christ? Jesus said the deceits in our generation will be so subtle, calculated to deceive even the elect, if that were possible (*Matt. 24:24*). For example, you might look for the head of a confederacy of ten European nations to identify the beast who is the #1 anti-Christ. If such a ten-nation European union does take shape, wouldn’t you be looking away from a Russian confederation and its factual beast head and anti-Christ? And where would you be looking while waiting for such a common market development? How easy it might be to divert your attention and pervert your analysis and even your preparation. You would be looking in another direction beyond what the Lord said He would do – so that you would believe. Most of Christendom, including most of your city and most of almost any congregation does look elsewhere – even today!

:2 This beast of blasphemy will contain the essence, strength and cunning of all the previous beast empires put together – because Satan “fathered” them all (*Dan. 7:4-6* – Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece). The “feet of the bear” show the planting of the beast in Russia. The dragon, as to person, is Satan (*Rev. 12:9*). His operations among the nations in the end-time period *began* to be manifested in the development of fascism. Ever since World War II, the dragon, rightest fascism (the white horse of *Rev. 6:2*), has worked in close harmony with the authoritarian Roman Church in various countries. Fascism has always tended to give way to and be absorbed by the socialist and communist ideologies.

Step 1

FASCISM: a strongly nationalistic political and economic movement, magnifying the rights of the state as opposed to those of the individual. It permits largely private ownership, but industry and all administrative political units are controlled by a strong cen-

tral government. The magnifying of the rights of state inescapably leads to the expropriation of private property. Then state ownership unavoidably leads toward dictator control over the economic, political and the ecclesiastical functions – to eliminate all opposition.

Step 2

SOCIALISM: The doctrine of public ownership and operation of the *principal* means of production and distribution of wealth. Its ideal goal is to bring equitable apportionment of opportunity and rewards of labor. The orthodox doctrine is based largely on the writings of Karl Marx. It becomes the opposite to individualism and develops increasing reliance on the State. It too necessitates expanding controls and leads directly to communism.

Step 3

COMMUNISM: By definition, communism is the practice of individual *communities* governing themselves. The State would be the combination of such self-governing communities. Property, production, and distribution would be *community* controlled. But see what took place – even at the outset. The State won for itself total control over economic, political and religious life. The State becomes the *seen* god (keeper) for each individual, to the exclusion of the one God. Subtle seduction for idealists who will not fully recognize their own basic selfishness!

The dragon, Satan, has developed tremendous power to influence and dominate humankind. That power, seat and great authority he transfers and delegates to the beast. Since Rome is the seat of the dragon (fascism), Italy will surely go communist and will be absorbed into the beast system. Likewise, other countries dominated by the Roman Church will be taken over by communist or socialist elements. As a further development, socialism and communism tend to come closer together in their ideologies. The trend will continue, until the communist, socialist and semisocialist nations weld themselves together in a United Nations World Government *with teeth*. For a time, the Roman Church (the woman) will work out an accommodation with communism and the **Revelation 13:1** “sea” beast. Also, together with the apostate Protestant denominations (her daughters), she will give full support to the beast of World Government, the **Revelation 13:11** second beast, headed by the false prophet. But eventually the communist forces will turn on the Church to destroy her. The ten horns (the communist beast’s puppet nations) will desolate the woman who has become a harlot (**Rev. 17:16**).

This beast power is shown progressively coming up out of the “sea” or “waters,” out of a philosophy or ideology of the masses of people in confusion. It arises from a reaction against the corrupt system in church-state relationships, the reaction of a people under oppression from that union. But this beast power is also *of* the previous beast empires, an outgrowth, development and extension of them (**Rev. 17:11**). Near the conclusion of each of the previous beast empire’s term of control over the Chosen People, repentance brought a release and respite. Then later a new beast empire was permitted to rise up, because of renewed unfaithfulness among the Chosen.

In a picture similar to that of “spiritual Israel” (**Gal. 3:7,29**) which picked up the “mantle” (inheritance) of ancient physical Israel and is no longer confined to the land of Palestine, so did “Christian” Rome pick up the mantle of pagan Rome and likewise

become no longer confined to the political boundaries of the old Roman Empire. As the Roman Church evangelized many nations, its identity was conferred upon them. The beast of pagan Rome was perpetuated in the beast of Christendom or “Christian” nations. Just a short time after the followers of Christ took up the terms of the Covenant wrenched away from the Jews, Christian leaders quickly began tolerating and accepting the works of Satan in the Church (*II Thess. 2:7*). Since there has yet been no consistent repentance within the organized Church, the tenure and working of the beast of “Christian” Rome has continued without interruption.

This beast, pictured in its end-time nature and fulfillment, brings out a special phenomenon of our day – Christian nations renouncing Christ and embracing communism, earning the name of blasphemy on their heads. Russia, a nation under the Eastern Orthodox Church, brought forth communism. Therefore, the beast of communism is just an extension of the same beast of Christendom, only different in form. The previous Roman beast of paganism also was carried on through Christendom. The same pattern has continued to develop.

:3 The beast was seen to resemble a female leopard. The female is the most savage of the species, but the female also pictures begetting and nourishing. The leopard is covered with scattered spots – black and like a rose. We have clearly seen how communism develops through scattered cells, pushing a philosophy that looks as beautiful as a rose at first sight. But this philosophy is the black doctrine of Karl Marx, straight from the pit.

In Russia today, the communist cells are made of a minority of the populace, only a very small percentage, and they are scattered. Communism is born out of atheistic intellectualism, but grows and thrives in conditions of want and misery, where the have-nots are ready to seize from those who have. Particularly in the East, the overpopulation, laziness and squalor make it easy for Russia to become the ideal mother for the spawn of hell.

Countries where communism has taken root are, for the most part, those in which the eastern or western Catholic Church has ruled. There, the Church has been autocratic from the start, permitting no rights to think for one’s self. In spite of the record of many mistakes, its leadership acts “infallible” and dictatorial. This type of rigid enforcement was for the benefit of the entrenched rulers and the State government. Always the Church sought to bring more people under its influence. Thus the womb was prepared which nourished and brought forth communism.

Russia is also known today as the bear of the north. That is where the beast stands. The mouth of the beast is that of a lion. Communism’s prophet or mouth was Karl Marx who was of German Jewish-Christian parents and who was baptized into the Church. Marx was associated with two nations symbolized by the lion. He lived in England and he was of the tribe of Judah. And the dragon, Satan himself, will give his might and power to the beast. Satan can and will give this power and authority to someone he chooses for receiving it, for he is able to do so (*Matt. 4:8-9*).

Although there are historical fulfillments of the head which received the death stroke and was healed, we are also told of an end-time fulfillment as well (see comment on *Rev. 17:8-II* pages 319, 321). The pagan Roman Empire received a death stroke, but revived as the Holy Roman Empire. The Holy Roman Empire suffered a death stroke

in the days of Martin Luther, but survived the splitting away of that which became Protestantism. More recently, there was a large scale uprising in the beast head that is Hungary. Its communist government was wounded unto death – no doubt of it – and the whole structure of the communists could be seen in the balance. But then came the Russian tanks and troops to crush the drive for freedom. The last opportunity for western Christendom to undo the bestial empire had passed by – almost ignored. Then there was Czechoslovakia – also overrun by Russia. Since many years have now elapsed, it is becoming more apparent that the prophecy may again fulfill, nationally and through one individual ruler being mortally wounded, but then recovering – perhaps miraculously. From that moment of recovery, he would be granted power and authority for a period of 42 months (:5).

:4 The propaganda victories reinforced by gains through the use of direct military force, initially in the Middle East and then later in further conquest over much of Europe, will bring great admiration through fear, even through stark terror. The power and authority acquired by this beast will be exalted by men as being irresistible.

:5-6 With many of its gains consolidated and, to all appearances, its position firmly established, the beast spues forth vilification against all who demonstrate the life of Christ (*Matt. 10:40, 12:30*). He will do his best to discredit and bring the returning Firstfruits into disrepute. Previously, communist doctrine has rejected the existence of God and heaven, but when the Firstfruits come from and return to the New Jerusalem, it will have become impossible to deny the existence of those who live in heaven.

The beast will have complete control over every facet of man's life in one-third of the world's population (*Rev. 8:11*). Those of the largest portion of the Church will blame the Church for cheating and preventing them from participating in the Firstfruits translation. The beast forces will be quick to intensify that resentment by vilifying the Church, and multitudes will separate themselves from all Church influence.

Before the Firstfruits are taken up, the beast cannot speak against God because the beast insists there is no God! After the Firstfruits return, there will be his speaking against God and the blaspheming of those who represent God and earth and of the Firstfruits from the heavens – against all in whom God has made His abode. Much attention is yet to be given toward the elimination of God from the minds of man so that the beast will have complete control. The coming military battle is primarily for control of the mind of man, not for land or resources.

:7 The beast and his followers are also permitted to make war against the saints and overcome them. The word "saints" here means those separated or set apart. But before we jump to an unwarranted conclusion, let us understand that God is faithful, though man be unfaithful. His permitting these separated ones to be overcome in battle must have something to do with a degree of unfaithfulness, for otherwise they would not be subjected to such warfare (*Ps. 91:7-8*). Much Scripture speaks of the unfaithful Church, even describing her as a harlot, although those accepting God's training into overcoming have come from her members.

Some who are set apart may be so set apart by God for His purpose. Others set apart may be so set apart by setting themselves apart for God and for His purpose. In this verse, the primary view is of the Jewish people in Palestine. These people have been separated from the nations and gathered together there for God's purpose in bringing

these end-time sons of Abraham into a recognition of their Messiah. Therefore, it is again confirmed by these words that there will be war and that there will be much persecution directed against the people of Palestine by the beast power. They will yet be overcome.

Palestine is where World War III will start. To satisfy its logistic and strategic needs for world rule, Russia will seek to dominate the Middle East, especially Palestine, and Palestine will go communist. Eventually to protect her interests, Russia will be compelled to invade the Jewish homeland with military might and make war on the Jews (*Ezek. 38:3-4, 8-12*). And the beast ruler will have a great measure of success. But when it appears he has almost reached his ultimate goal, he will be broken by God's intervention.

In the same pattern, the beast powers will make war against those who have set themselves apart for God and for His purpose. There is no doubt, from many portions of Scripture, about there being a Great Persecution against all Christians, wherever the beast influence can reach. They are the saints of God's spiritual Israel. This persecution will be vigorously pursued in all communist dominated countries and in all where the false front of socialism is used to lead toward the same communism seen in Russia. Those Christians who have taken on little preparation for the times, of great persecution will be overcome. Those who have prepared themselves and who have elected the greater glory of giving up their physical lives for the Gospel will also appear to be "conquered" by the beast power during the 42 months of Great Tribulation. But again, the beast ruler's initial success will be confused by the power of God through His chosen ones. The beast will be defeated on the "mountains" of Israel (*Ezek. 39:4*). He will be defeated by the nations of a renewed Christendom, for mountains symbolize nations (*Rev. 17:9-10*).

The beast power will extend through all nations in some degree, by reason of the political understandings with the World Government coalition of socialist and semi-socialist nations born out of the United Nations Organization.

:8 Because of the almost overwhelming extent of the beast power's expanding dominion and effective infiltration, it will be obvious to everyone unaware of God's plan that the beast power will indeed soon possess all. Each individual who has not made Jesus Christ his personal Savior, each one who has not taken up and improved his alignment with the Holy Spirit and each one who has not made the Word of God an integrated part of his innermost being by constantly ingesting that Word, will have no alternative but accept the beast power as the dominating influence in his life.

The days are coming when the Christian believer will need far more faith and far more strength than he now possesses. That faith will need to be so undergirded that even in "impossible" situations believers will stand steadfast on the Rock during the days ahead, and not be a part of the wholesale falling away. They will need to understand that, in spite of overwhelming circumstantial evidence almost guaranteeing complete success for the beast from the "sea," there will be a complete failure of the "man of sin" to attain his total dominion over the earth.

The saints who know the Word (Jesus) and God's plan for the end-time will count on the sure downfall of the beast at the precise moment revealed in that plan. They will not give way to him. Others will not know the Lord as a loving Father and it will be too

much for them to stand against the pressures which the beast system will apply (*Lk. 21:25-26*). The failure of the beast, the man of sin, to gain complete dominion over the earth is clearly shown in the Word. All (meaning many or most) who dwell on the earth shall "worship" him in fear and servitude – those whose names are *not* written in the Book of Life of the Lamb (the turned off 30-fold and no-fold). Those who are written up in that Book will not worship the beast.

It is not too difficult to understand that this 3 1/2 year period will be the most difficult period mankind has ever had to go through or ever will have to go through. All Christians will experience these difficult years, except the 144,000 company of Firstfruits (*Matt. 24:21*). However, we are to understand there is a balance. For the children of light, this same period will see a Pentecostal outpouring and Spiritual revolution unmatched in human history. The greatest darkness will be overcome by the greatest Light. Nations, as well as individuals, will be caught up in this mighty moving of God. Nations, as well as individuals, will progressively come under total God-rule. In the final stages of the beast power's expansion, they will choose to die fighting, rather than submit to Satan and his angels and gravitate into the "Lake of Fire." Then will God be able to fight their battle for them. Then will Satan and his hosts of followers lose their grasp on even that which they have gained.

:9-10 He who takes the sword shall perish by the sword. But don't jump to an unsupportable conclusion. This does not mean that everyone who takes up the sword to kill another shall also perish by the sword. Remember, the Bible repeatedly says the Lord does not play favorites (*Deut. 10:17, Rom. 2:11*). Abraham did not die of a sword wound, nor Moses, nor Joshua, nor David, nor Kaiser Wilhelm, nor thousands of others whose names we do not even know. In fact, God Himself strongly commanded man to take the sword and use it without mercy against the spoiler (*Jer. 48:10*). What then is the intent of *Revelation 13:10*? In *verse 7*, those holy people against whom the beast will wage war and overcome are primarily the Jewish people and secondarily those of spiritual Israel, all of whom are inadequately prepared. Then *verse 9* introduces a change of subject and warns of a necessity for careful and special reading of what follows. Who are the people in view in *verse 10*?

First of all, *Revelation 13* deals with the last portion of the final 3 1/2 years of Great Tribulation, during which the beast from the sea reaches the zenith of his power. That power is used to oppress many peoples of many nations, not only the peoples of other nations than that of the beast, but also the non-conformists in his own empire. What is the beast's strategy? It is always to turn every man's sword against his brother (*Ezek. 38:21*). As the stress of the coming wars and civil conflicts grows within the lands of Christendom, especially when many serious losses are sustained, the enemy's lure will be taken up by vast numbers of the easily swayed.

The former Soviets conducted themselves to *appear* as a peace-loving nation. But their purpose was to plant the spurious hope in peace derived through replacing elected governments by a "people's government." No doubt many will try to implement it! Russia's aim will be to also foster internal strife which will enable a communist take-over. In addition within those Christian nations of spiritual Israel, multiplied tens of thousands under the great and real power of God's Spirit, will refuse point blank to carry arms. Their actions will augment the contention initiated by the enemy infiltrators, and the lot of the dissidents will not be too pleasant.

The prophet Jacob spoke of this time when recounting the treachery of Dan toward his brothers: ***"I have waited for your salvation, O Lord!" (Gen. 49:18)***. John also wrote of this *patience* of the saints who keep God's commandments and the Faith (the whole body of truth) of Jesus (***Rev. 14:12***). Note the immediate follow-up statement in ***Revelation 13:10***, ***"... Here is the patience and the faith of the holy ones."*** It is a special injunction and warning to the *holy ones* during the raging persecution of the faithful in the last days.

Their patience, their whole-hearted trust (not their belligerence), is to be *tested*. In this, the Lord tells these special ones to perk up – that it is now too late to fight, for the remaining days are few. These, your persecutors, who take you to concentration camps and kill you, have all been numbered to the sword. Do not let their persecution inflame your souls. Vengeance belongs to the Lord (***Jer. 15:1-8***). But again note, these words were not spoken to the rank and file. They were spoken to the holy ones exclusively. These holy ones have separated themselves from modern man's way of life and from the pollutions which are common to the world. These are the members of that portion of His Spirit-born Church who are the 100-fold, called out for the heavenly Kingdom, and the firmly grounded 60-fold, called out for Christ's earthly Kingdom.

Jesus also said, "If My Kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight" (***Jn. 18:36***). Since His Kingdom is initially to be a spiritual one in the heavens, there was nothing of it to fight for here on earth. Just a short time later, the same servants received the Holy Spirit Baptism, which sanctified them wholly and constituted them members of the heavenly Kingdom. That is the primary "holy" class referenced in ***Revelation 13:10***. The fully committed 60-fold are also set apart, but for their inheritance in Christ's earthly Kingdom rather than in the heavens. Theirs is both the privilege and the duty to sacrifice and fight, even to die, for *that which is right and good*. But their fighting would be for Christ's Kingdom, if and when necessary, not for the nations in World War III. The 30-fold are in transition and have no Kingdom affinity, but they too should fight only for what is right and good. Surely by mid-Tribulation, those who have received Holy Spirit Baptism will understand their heavenly Kingdom citizenship. They will have no interest or right to fight for an earthly cause or an earthly government. Neither will the *firmly* grounded 60-fold agree to defend other than his own family. He is of *Christ's* earthly Kingdom.

Saints sufficiently prepared ahead of the time of Great Tribulation have an immunity which Satan and his hosts, both demon and human, will be unable to penetrate (***Rev. 11:5, Ps. 91:7-10***). This is the same immunity pattern so graphically foreshown in the life of Jesus Christ. That immunity was made totally available by His overcoming sacrifice for all who would truly believe into Him. All overcomers who have adequately prepared themselves receive this complete protection which is then to be capped by the sealing with the nature of God (***Rev. 14:1***).

: 11-12 The developing intensity of the judgment patterns of the six Trumpets, and the fears of what might come in subsequent steps result in widespread dismay and deep apprehension all over the world. The progressive release of evil spirits during the fifth Trumpet also brings a spirit of great unrest. Multitudes are then tormented with every unholy desire and craving. The resulting chaos *drives* men to seek alliances with some form of all-powerful government which will be able to keep order and peace on the earth. The groundwork even now being laid is for such a government to emerge,

promising peace and security to all nations under its domination.

Thus the beast powers arise. The first will have had its inception in the communist combine of nations. Taking advantage of the chaos of the times, the second beast will soon then rise to clamp a world socialist dictatorship upon the nations. He will hold out before them the image of a planned order and economy which is to provide peace and plenty for all. The second beast government is to emerge as a coalition of communist and non-communist nations which will seek to force all into a world socialist rule, backed by a world police organization. **Amos 5:18-19** prophesies that running from the Satan-initiated chaos, without turning to God, will lead to the bear of communism. Leaning on the promises of security from the vitalized U.N. will mean death from the serpent, Satan, who incarnates as the head of the Russian communist regime.

Since World War II, Hitler's brand of national socialism with its one-man tyranny and super-racism, has evolved in implementation and methodology into an internationally oriented socialist statism in many countries. Yet each is still the same exalting of paternalistic "keeper" government. It robs men of personal responsibility under God, and regulates the lives of its citizens into subservience to the tyranny of a self-perpetuating, collectivist, ruling elite. Thus the stage is being set for the final and complete fulfillment of the "false prophet," heading up a coalition of socialist, semi-socialist and communist nations.

The thoughtful person will at once recognize that the "land" beast cannot be any one of the nations. We see in the prophetic descriptions that both the "sea" and the "land" beasts are to have a world encompassing dominion. How can two nations have a world-wide rule without being in conflict, both of concept and of rule? If the "sea" beast is a nation, and it is, what then is the "land" beast? The Word of God is not silent on the subject. But, if the "land" beast system cannot be in the form of a nation, what form can it possibly take to exercise a ruling influence over the nations, many of which also are within the "sea" beast system?

The prophet Isaiah spoke of the Day of the Lord in which His light will be magnified many-fold, even in the midst of the most intense darkness and judgment. It is the time when the Lord will bind up the breach of His people, healing their wounds. But during that time there will also be a bridle in the jaws of the people of many nations, and that bridle shall cause them to err. Subsequently, and at the climax of God's wrath, that bridle will be destroyed (**Isa. 30:26-28, Rev. 14:20**). A bridle is a steering device and it is used on a horse. In Scripture, the horse symbolism connects with the power to make war. It is this horse bridle which will be the means of steering the unsuspecting nations into World War III – to be climaxed by Armageddon. The bridle is not a power of itself, but a tool of the one who directs the horse. Now see how this bridle concept fits into the **Revelation 13:11,12,14** verses. The second beast rises out of the land, something already solidified, earthly and already organized. He must emerge from a logical position and in orderly fashion. He must be the servant of the beast which rises out of the sea. There is no competition here between the beasts. The "land" beast is to be under the control of the "sea" beast. But the "land" beast is in position to command the people of the nations of the earth (**Rev. 13:12, 14-17**). The "sea" beast is also in that position (**Rev. 13:7**). Yet the two are not in competition. Any two nations seeking control would surely compete.

There is one and only one organization which can possibly fulfill the bridle proph-

ecy: That fulfillment is the United Nations Organization. The U.N. is designed as a steering device, but it will turn the nations into error. It promises peace, but Jesus Christ said He comes to bring dividing. It will be the means of gathering the nations into World War III, a war not primarily for gaining advantage in commerce, but for capturing men's souls for the dragon, Satan. It is a war of God-rejecting nations against nations which will yet turn in faithfulness to the Lord. It is through the U.N. that Russia, the "sea" beast, will dictate world policy and world discipline for nations yet outside the direct control of the beast of communism. It is the U.N. which the Kremlin will employ as a tool to accelerate world dominion for communism – and will fail barely short of that attainment. It is only the U.N. which can exercise authority over nations and yet remain faithful to its communist member nations. Who instigated such a dreadful, hideous partnership? It was the USA, the leading Christian nation, which built Russia up into what it is today. It was the USA which initiated and built up the U.N. into what it is today. And it is the USA which will yet pay dearly for its consistent opposition to the expressed will of God.

Initially, the "land" beast ruler will appear as a kind, respectable and admirable man, in almost perfect deception. At first, the utopian World Government will appear benign and lamb-like. Yet in time, its true nature will become apparent to many, because in actual practice it will be merely a "front" for the beast of communism. Those in power will try to make all men "worship and bow down" (acknowledge in subservience) to the image they create, the image of the first beast.

: 13-14 The power of the second beast, the U.N. World Government, will become immense. And the accomplishments from the outset of its reorganization will seem almost miraculous. But the application of this power will include the threat of local nuclear devastation from the physical dropping of nuclear warheads from carriers man places aloft and by warheads shot into the air. Fire shall truly fall from the heavens in the sight of man. The show of strength to enforce "good for all" will be temporarily accepted as necessary. The nations will be cleverly deceived.

: 15 Because of the desperation of the times, people will be ready to receive the promise of utopia – and for them the image of promise will start to live and breathe. The second beast will cause an "image" of the first beast to "live," an image becoming active among the millions of the inhabitants of the world. The ideological "image" is a planned and controlled economic and social system in each member nation of the World Government "land" beast. Since it is the image of the first beast (communism), it means that all nations will be increasingly forced to conform their economic and social systems to communism, under the threat of destruction. The "attainment" of the promised utopia involves strict regimentation. Therefore, many who dare to resist will lose their lives for their trouble. The man who heads this World Government of nations under the "land" beast (the second beast), will be the final and complete fulfillment of the "false prophet," of which Hitler was but a crude prototype.

We will see the Jewish nation accept a great leader who comes in his own name (*Jn. 5:43*). To him that nation will become fully obedient. Presumably he will be of Jewish ancestry, at least in measure, or Israel would not accept him. This man will be largely instrumental in bringing the whole world to its knees in great sorrow and in frantic prayer. It is most probable that a great many other nations will likewise accept this same man as their leader. He almost certainly becomes the head of the United Nations Orga-

nization, because the Word of God clearly predicts that body will lead the whole world astray.

: 16-17 The beast requires all persons under his authority, including those submitting to the false prophet, to receive a “mark” or inscription or sealing in the right hand or in the forehead. All who willingly conform to the beast system, or who fear not to, or who just go along, will receive the mark of the beast in the right hand or in the forehead. It is the mark of the sea beast, promoted through the land beast. Believing a lie, they will be forced to work for its realization by giving the power of their hand to it. Or they will be forced to devote their mental capabilities toward bringing about its development.

Let us keep in mind that the empires of #1 beast and #2 beast are a single empire in reality, incorporating all who are brought into agreement with its image. But the surface view shows two confederations of nations. One includes those nations under the direct and delegated (puppet) rule of the Kremlin. The other includes those who confederate under the false prophet, and are inadvertently brought under the dominion of the man of sin through seduction, through having their governments rapidly patterned more and more after the image of communism. Believing a lie, they will be forced to work for its realization in one way or another.

There are two categories of people involved in the empire of the beast, whether in Russia (the seat or throne of the beast) or in those nations where an image of the beast (puppet government) has been or is being set up. Those who receive the mark in the forehead or mind are the *heads* or rulers; and they include all who are trusted appointees of the government, i.e., administrators, secret police etc. The others who receive the mark in the *right* hand are of the masses who are required to be active in their work to develop, support and extend the communist system and its image of applied Marxism. Those who refuse to be subservient to the image of the beast (worship), he will try to make ineffective. This is the common policy already in all nations where the beast system of communism has taken over. Either submit, or run the risk of being disposed of in one way or another.

We already see the image in the governments set in the Eastern bloc of nations. In 1956, many of the people of Hungary revolted and refused to give support to the communist dictators (the mark in the hand) and refused to give in to (worship) the image (obey puppet rulers loyal toward communist ideology and the Kremlin – the mark in the forehead). Multiplied thousands of civilians were attacked and suffered reprisals. Many were ruthlessly killed. If anyone is prone to think that the beast might change its spots, the 1968 episode in Czechoslovakia and Poland’s experience in 1981 should dispel that foolish notion (*Rev. 13:2, Jer. 13:23*). The image in Czechoslovakia and Poland was not to Moscow’s liking. The puppet rulers did not have the mark adequately stamped in their foreheads (minds). Therefore, the Russians moved in to force upon them the new image (government). Administrators were replaced and the people were compelled at bayonet point to receive the mark in their hand (give support to the new rulers). During World War III, the mark probably will also be in the form of a card to be carried.

In contemporary history, we have seen the principle of the mark’s application mostly in communist controlled nations. The same sort of thing operates sooner or later in every dictator governed land. However, when the United Nations is permitted to exercise its authority and influence over all nations, new areas of application open up. The

mark being examined here is explicitly linked with the two beast empires of *Revelation 13*. How far will the requirement for *this* mark extend?

The Greek word translated “mark” can also mean ‘a scratch or etching’, or ‘raised above the surface’. We speak of certain thoughts or pictures becoming etched in the mind, and the same idea can be applied to the pattern and objective of physical activity. The word can also be translated as ‘a stamp’, such as could be on a badge. The Greek word is derived from a similar word meaning ‘to sharpen to a point’. That too gives the picture of *penetration* into mind and work.

Revelation 3:10, written to the Church, speaks of a final “hour” of trial coming upon the *whole* world to test those who dwell upon the earth. The testing, obviously, must be for faithfulness to Jesus Christ as the One and only Keeper of all flesh. Just as obviously, no avowed communist would be a reasonable subject for such testing – he having already proven his rejection of God and Jesus Christ. “No one shall have power or privilege (government delegated) to buy or sell (anything),” unless he gives active support, intellectual or physical, to the beast or toward implementing the realization of world dominance through his administration. This comes close to or reaches the ultimate test – on one side, to uncover Christians so they can be dealt with by the beast government; on the other side, to prove the complete loyalty to either Christ or to Satan incarnate. If we measure this “hour” of testing with the 21-year “day” of Christ’s ministry in His Father’s business, the “hour” would be the final 21 months of the Great Tribulation.

“No one will have power to buy or sell unless he *holds* the mark of the beast...” Possibly, a card or other imprint with suitable impressions will be mandated. As the Great Tribulation develops, particularly during World War III, there will be shortages of almost everything and, necessarily, regulated allocations. To facilitate “fair” distribution, as seen desirable both politically and “religiously,” the mark will be required – of all people. But it is the Christians who will be tested in the application of the system, because the possessors of the mark will be required to support the imposition and maintenance of the image of communism upon their nation. Christians will be tested as never before for faithfulness to Jesus Christ!

Although there has been almost unlimited conjecture over the years on what the mark of the beast will be, when it comes, there will be no question among true Christians as to its identity. Through heavenly messengers and the Glorious Church on earth, the Lord will see to it that every believer approaching regeneration and every regenerated Christian is sufficiently informed to make his own intelligent decision on how to respond to the government’s requirement. No 60-fold or higher will give way to the pressure, because of the strength of Divine pull into righteousness within; however, many 30-fold will turn back. However, the testing will be upon all believers during a 21 month period of the Great Tribulation. Although the plan will be targeted principally against Christians, the requirement of the mark will also affect all who oppose the beast system. Today, to a lesser degree, the pattern in development is seen not only in communist controlled lands, but also in other dictator run countries – such as Iran, Libya, etc.

After it is too late, the nations will find they have surrendered their rights and their freedom for something that is only an illusion. They will be hopelessly trapped in a web of their own making, for the beast powers will have the means of enforcing their rule

upon all. Only when conditions reach the point at which the land of Palestine is threatened in such a way that alarms world Jewry will the yoke on the nations begin to be broken. When those western nations which have become a part of the second beast's coalition find their interests in the Middle East threatened, then shall world Jewry, into whose power the western nations have largely been delivered, begin to resist the advances of the first beast into the Middle East and into Palestine. Then shall the coalition begin to break up. Then shall the second beast quickly lose his power to make all men worship the image of the first beast. The nations will be divided and conflict shall begin to rage as the western nations, led by the financial power of world Jewry, begin to fight the communist military invasion of Palestine.

Then shall a spark of renewed patriotism begin to be fanned in the western nations, and the Spirit of God shall begin to quicken within the hearts of those who have seen the folly of the image of world socialism based on monolithic rule. The fires of spiritual revolution which will have begun to burn within the western nations of Christendom will also begin to influence those in high places. Then the will to resist will quickly rise. The means of stemming the tide of communist expansion into Palestine will be quickly mustered, and the hearts of the people will be stirred as never before.

The battle of the ages will be on! All nations will be gathered to Jerusalem to battle (*Zech. 14:2*). Palestine is the match which will ignite the flame of conflagration that will envelop the whole earth. And there will be no let-up until the final climax, when the Lord Himself will be revealed in flaming fire (*II Thess. 1:7-8*). Then shall all which has been unleashed in satanic fury reach its consummation, and the battle of the ages will move into its completion. Then shall those hosts which have come up from the bottomless pit be returned to their own realm. They will torment mankind no more, until the 1000 years of righteousness has made its impress upon the inhabitants of the earth. The coming World Government of the "sea" beast – and of the "land" beast – will continue only for a short time (*Rev. 17:10*).

During the chaos developing under the influence of the evil spirits announced by the fifth Trumpet, the monetary wealth of all nations will largely be destroyed. Debt and interest practices will cause a continuing spiral in prices and wages. Even when wages have reached a level where further increases must be denied, inflation will continue to eat away buying power, until it will take most of what the average person makes to provide the basic necessities of life. The eventual weight of debt and interest will become so great as to collapse the entire system.

Money (which most people consider to be wealth today) will be practically worthless. Savings and investments will mean nothing. Anyone not having his treasure in heaven will find himself getting poorer and poorer. Control and rationing will become absolutely necessary. Freedom to buy and sell will be almost wiped out, and government control of everything will become mandatory for survival. People's lives will be regulated through tabulated work credits and assigned consumer allotments. Money will be replaced by a computerized numbers system which will tabulate each family's work contribution (credits) and the assignment of goods and services needed and provided (debits).

Credits granted will be based on work contribution and family need. Distribution will be on the basis of "need," and the need will be determined by statistical factors obtained from each family. Special requisition papers will be necessary for purchases

other than daily needs.

All business will be controlled by the government and any organization which refuses to comply with all the regulations will not be able to obtain raw materials or distribute its products (*Rev. 13:17*). The *Revelation 13:17* passage refers to the beast government only. But the chaos of economic collapse will force almost all governments into dictatorial controls. In the Christian countries, the dictatorship will not necessarily be the "beast." Yet all Christians then on earth will be tested by his mark. The beast is international communism and the U.N. world government of nations. No business will be permitted to sell to customers as is now done. These extreme measures will be required because of the critical world situation, but the basic framework of a controlled society will be the result of years of previous planning and scheming by an intellectual caste which dominates the thinking of the higher echelons of government personnel.

But God's prepared people will have much wealth in Christ, with power so great, with joy, affection and hope so centered on Him, and with His glory so great upon them, the temporary inconveniences they suffer will be more than made up by the exceeding spiritual wealth they have (*II Cor. 8:9, Rev. 2:9*). Man and his systems cannot take away treasure laid up in heaven (*Matt. 6:19-21*). But those truly learning to love the Lord will have to give up most of their earthly wealth and possessions, in order to remain true to God and keep from receiving the mark of the beast on their foreheads or hands.

: 18 Satanic controlled forces in the dictatorship society of the beast empire will put every conceivable pressure upon believers who refuse to conform and support the regime. Those who are determined to remain true to Jesus Christ shall gain the victory over the beast, his image, his mark and the number of his name. Our Lord will protect and preserve them in that day and they shall be completely delivered from "the world" and ushered into a Kingdom prepared.

The number 666 is symbolic of the completion of Satan's will in man, in body (6), in body and soul (66), and in body, soul and spirit (666). It pictures a completeness of independence from a need for the true God, and a dominance of living for self. This appears to be Satan's "sealing" in men, quite different from what is brought to the saints by the "sealing" or impartation of the nature of God (*Rev. 14:1-4, Ezek. 9*).

Now we take a look at the heavenly bodies and their message for the time in which we live. Planet worship and planet divination prevailed in the Euphrates Valley at a very early period, even before the time of Abram. Saturn was the most inconspicuous (called the "hidden god") of the seen planets, both in brightness and in motion. It is surprising that it received their special attention. Israel in the wilderness is mentioned as bringing sacrifices and offerings to *Sakkuth* and *Kaiwan*. And Israel was accused of carrying about the tabernacle of their king (*Moloch* means "king"), *Sakkuth* and *Kaiwan*. These are names for the planet Saturn. The Israelites brought along the images of their star-god (*Amos 5:25-26*).

In the New Testament time, Stephen referred to this Amos passage, and related it to worship of the golden calf. This resulted in God turning away from that nation, and in His giving it up to serve the host (stars) of heaven. The nation had taken up the tabernacle of their king (Moloch) and the star (planet) of the god Rephan (*Acts 7:41-43*).

The word *Rephan* should be transliterated *Kaiwan*, which is the name of the planet Saturn among the ancient Arabs and Syrians. *Kaimanu*, meaning “constant” or “regular,” was its name among the Assyrians. Both Amos and Stephen equated the golden calf worship to the worship of the king (Moloch) whose “star” is the planet Saturn. Both references imply that this deity was one familiar to speaker and to listeners. This same worship of the calf, a replica of a young bull, was practiced by the Ammonites, Phoenicians, Carthaginians and many other nations. The statue, a human body with the head of an ox, was specifically called the statue of Saturn. The ordinary way in which the Egyptians represented their favorite divinity was in the form of a young bull or calf. This was the form borrowed by the Israelites. The name *Apis*, in Egyptian, apparently was taken from the Chaldean word “to cover,” which in Egyptian means “to conceal.” It represents the character of the god Saturn as the hidden one. The Chaldean word for “bull” also was used for “a ruler” or “a prince.”

Ovid, Pliny and Aurelius Victor affirm the original name of Rome was Saturnia, the City of Saturn, and the whole of Italy was commonly named the Saturnian land. The Roman or Latin race traces its lineage back to *Lateinos* (the Greek form of the word) who was represented with a “glory” around his head. In popular opinion, the original *Lateinos* occupied the very same position as did Saturn in the Mysteries (hidden things). Moreover, it is evident that the Romans knew the name *Lateinos* signified the “hidden one,” for their antiquarians invariably affirm that *Latium* (the Roman form of the word) received its name from Saturn. The words *Latium*, *Latinus* (*Lateinos* in Greek) and *lateo* mean “to lie hid.” Each one comes from the Chaldean “*lat*,” having the same meaning. The name “*Lat*” or “hidden one,” had evidently been given, as well as the name “Saturn,” to the great Babylonian god, for Egyptians also worshipped Latus in the city of Latopolis. To this most cruel and malignant of deities was given the sacrifice of young children to be consumed by fire.

Another name attributed to this god was “Kronos,” who was married to a goddess named Rhea or Cybele (goddess of fortresses). And so Kronos or Saturn is the god of fortresses as well (**Dan. 11:38**). Kronos signifies “the horned one,” and a horn is a well known oriental emblem for power or might. Kronos therefore signifies the mighty one. The name Kronos is applied in the classics to Saturn as the father of gods. All the gods of Greek and Roman mythology have been seen to stem from this deification of the being who is often seen as the sun-god and whose “star” is Saturn.

The festival that the pagans celebrated at Rome at the winter solstice was called the feast of Saturn, and its mode of celebration with loose reins, drunkenness and revelry showed its derivation. The gladiatorial shows also were sacred to Saturn for *appeasing* and *propitiating* him.

Saturn is the sixth planet out from the sun, and six speaks of taking earthly dominion. Saturn also has three rings (a glory) around it. Saturn also has ten satellites, connecting with the ten horns of **Revelation 13:1**. And the term Saturn was used to refer to the metal lead, a metal initially bright and shining, but which when exposed quickly turns dull and gloomy. That metal used for water pipes and kitchen utensils poisoned the people.

Who is this being whose “star” is Saturn? Who has imposed upon mankind a dread and fear of his princely power and might, requiring a worship of appeasement and propitiation to stave off destruction from his hand? Paul wrote of that one as the mys-

tery (hidden one) of iniquity, bringing all deceivableness and unrighteousness, showing signs and lying wonders, and deluding the minds of inadequately prepared Christians (*II Thess. 2:10*). In those former years, was it not the prince of this world, Satan, whom the idolatrous peoples were in many cases inadvertently worshipping in apprehension and fear (*Jn. 8:41-44*)? And is that not why that particular idol worship was such an abomination to the Lord (*Amos 5:25-26*)?

Now in our own time, there are other happenings in the heavens having to do with the “star,” Saturn. In our own time, there are things connected with the tangible arrival of the lawless one to war against God’s chosen representatives. God has chosen before and, therefore, does choose again to reflect things of His arranging in the heavens (*Ps. 19:1-4, Lk. 21:25*). This is not astrology, but it might be called “heavenly astronomy.” In the lore involving the planets, Saturn is *Kronos* or *Chronos* or “Father Time.” In world affairs, he symbolizes government. For the spiritually aspiring, Saturn on his best side symbolizes prudence and discernment – a stabilizer. For the worldly who respond more to the negative reactions to its vibrations, Saturn stands for hindrances, difficulties, heartbreak, sickness, sorrow and death – the reaper at the end of the road. In December 1977, the planet Saturn entered the zodiacal sign of Virgo or the Virgin the heavens which seems specially connected with happenings that affect God’s chosen people, the called out ones. The “star” of the prince of this world is seen moving into a new and domineering position, at a time when the Bible tells us that *a man* with super-intelligence will come into world power to war against and seemingly overcome the saints.

While Scripture foretells there will be many anti-Christes at the end of the Church Age; one is especially anti-Christ. He will become a mortal and the number of his “name” (character, influence, etc.) is the number of humanity (*Rev. 13:18*). At the appointed time, the “hidden god” of this world, Satan himself, is to be given freedom to move into a fully grown human to function as a mortal. That man, with all the cunning, deceptiveness and power of Satan, will be occupying a position of governing authority in the Kremlin circle of God-defying, renewed communist Russia. Then will Satan, controlling the man, personally develop his plan for subjugating all governments and peoples of the world to communist dictatorial rule. The motivation will be fear of reprisal, if they do not submit. For a time, the god of fortresses (*Dan. 11:38*) will seem to be moving into complete success. But then he will be progressively but rapidly overcome. He will remain but a short time. The number of his name, 666, explicitly describes him. Throughout history, his character and nature have been made known among the nations. Throughout history, peoples have tried to appease and propitiate him, in effect, by worshipping and serving “Saturn,” the “star” of that hidden god, the god of destructive fire.

In the Chaldean, the word Saturn is spelled in our letters “STUR,” and pronounced as “Satur.” The number value of these Chaldean letters is 60, 400, 6, and 200, totaling a sum of exactly 666. In the Greek, the name *Lateinos* which is derived from another Chaldean name for this hidden god has a letter-number value which is also exactly the sum of 666. The person who directs his mental power toward developing the governing system being promoted by this beast ruler who rises out of the sea of nations (*Rev. 13:1*), or who gives the work of his hand toward its success, even if he does not mentally subscribe to the system, will be practicing the nature of the beast and will have thus received the symbolic number of his “name” on the forehead (mind) or on the hand (*Rev. 13:16-17*).

From the number of his “name,” we can get his main earmarks. The numeral 6 is

shown in the three placements, the first for body, the second for soul, and the third for spirit. Being humanity's number, the three sixes speak of a human philosophy or cult or creed. Some would erroneously call it "religion." It promotes the selfish interests of man. The 6 in the body placement shows a rationalist of considerable attainment, the mental type, forceful and independent. The 6 in the second placement indicates his being filled with and swayed by human emotions which, because of the 6 accentuation, will be purely selfish. His soul desire will surface in the domineering denoted by the 6; he will be a dictator. His third 6 tells the most. His spirit direction or religion is man-invented philosophy which either ignores or repudiates God. Yet the 6 in the religious placement also shows the humaneness and equality facet of the philosophy, at least in its propaganda phase. This unGodly creed the man sponsors will be one well advertised and world known. It can be recognized through its play on human emotions (6 in the soul place), setting man against man (this is the *second* six, and 2 is the number of division). His purpose is to secure control over people's souls and implement his domination over them (the implication of the 6 in the first placement). The third 6 in the placement of spirit denotes the postulation of man's supremacy, leaving God out of the picture. This cult is one of "human brotherhood" (being the third, it indicates an adhesion); but the adhesion demanded is to himself. He is utterly selfish and dictatorial.